

C. K. NAYUDU

“A Cricketer Of Charm”

By
“ESKARI”

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— ONE —

A BOY PRODIGY AT CRICKET

FIFTYONE years ago,—on October 31, 1895—the Nayudu family of Nagpur had an addition to it. That child was to create history later on in the cricket world, and even before it learnt how to mumble a few words or to toddle along, one thing seemed to interest it considerably and that was any object with a round shape. The things for play that were offered to it, however bright in colours, did not attract him in the same way as an ordinary plain round arrangement would. That child was to be later known locally in Nagpur as a boy prodigy at all sport, and even at the age of seven he could be the equal in fighting power and prowess against anyone quite ten years older. Kankaiya was the name which was later to be famous in and around Nagpur as he entered the High English school. With the growth in stature his fame spread, known as C. K. Nayudu—spelt Naidu at the time—which became an enchanting name wherever cricket was played in India. Later on still, the two initials C. K. was enough to reveal his identity not only in India but in England and other parts of the cricketing world as well.

Cottari Kankaiya Nayudu was born of a family which had come over from Madras to settle at Nagpur and was well-known in the educational sphere as also the

sporting. His father and uncle were both at Cambridge and had the honour of being great chums of that peerless cricketer—"Ranji"—later the Jam Saheb of Nawanagar. As adept in the intricacies of Shakespearean play which they often staged at home with the "characters" drawn entirely from the Nayudu family, sport and particularly cricket was in their very blood. It is said that young Kankaiya was given a small role or two on occasions and he took all the pleasure in memorising every word that he was supposed to speak with the same assiduity with which he practised hooking a fast, rising bumper. Not only that, Kankaiya had ample directions how to move every little bit of muscle on the face as he was to bring out the words from the immortal plays. Every little movement or shake of the head or hand was carefully controlled and when C. K. was to fill a bigger stage, that economy of movement which has often been alleged to be 'highbrow attitude' on his part characterised him.

Some years ago the Captain of a ship, then anchored in one of the main Indian harbours, had chanced to visit a cricket ground where an important match was being played. I forget his name today, but the Captain of the ship knew as much about cricket and cricketers as you or I know about Mars. It chanced also that this Captain later on was to meet C. K. Nayudu at a dinner party but without knowing his identity or what he really meant to the cricket world. Midway through the dinner the Captain, all excited, stood up and exclaimed: "I think I have seen you somewhere. Wasn't it at the

cricket last week?" Nayudu agreed that he had been playing cricket the week before and the Captain, pressed to disclose how he came to spot the cricketer, said that his signal with the hands to one of the Khitmatgars had done the trick. That little, masterly, measured wave of the hand which arranges the field in a test match has a distinction all its own which cannot be mistaken whether on the cricket field or at the dinner table. Now that the mystery was solved, the Captain flushed with the excitement of detection as well as that of a late evening on board the ship, was promptly on his feet demonstrating what Nayudu had been doing on the field and how. That little wave of the hand was all the impression that a game of cricket had left on the Captain's mind which shows what an integral part of the game can be the little things which reflect the personality behind them so unerringly. To that Captain at least, as long as he lives, cricket will mean the deft signals of a skipper arranging his men on the field of play.

Kankaiya's early boyhood was evenly distributed between education and sport but it was plain for all to see that the "open" lured him far more than the class room, necessarily with walls all around it. This is not to say that young Nayudu neglected his studies but that anything which suggested and promised a burst of speed and a display of skill attracted him greatly. Whatever he took up, he seemed to have an innate aptitude for it. Thus at the age of seven we find him in his school cricket team and given all the credit and importance of a grown-up boy. Still rather short in stature, he made up for

his lack of inches with quickness, speed and agility of movement. His eyesight seemed to be unerring and young Nayudu would be found, for hours on end, hitting at random a tennis ball suspended from a tree in the backyard with all the peculiar intoxication of a born ball-game player. Who knows that this apparently insane habit did not give him all the training and practice for a sure eye and an unfailingly pliant but steely pair of wrists that did not fear hitting across the break with certainty and precision of the best slow bowlers in the world for sixes? The school to which Nayudu belonged used to participate in the locally well-known Beadon Shield tournament and Nayudu was considered to be the mainstay of his team from the very beginning which, as we have already seen, was at the tender age of seven. He is credited with having hit up ten centuries in four years of school cricket.

It is amazing how delightful stories—almost legendary in appeal—grow up around the early life of successful men and women in every walk of life. Not all of them can be expected to be accurate in the minutest detail. But this story of Nayudu's unbelievably early participation in competitive cricket is not one of them.

— TWO —
COACHED BY HIS FATHER

It is often asked what kind of coaching Nayudu received at cricket. Nothing very much, as will be seen presently, by way of systematic coaching as modern coaching is understood. But with strong commonsense he availed of the laconic but very useful tips that his father gave him from time to time while C. K. was still very young. As has already been said, Nayudu's father was a great follower of the game and his ideal had been Ranji. When a man with such a high ideal wishes to see his son doing well at cricket he, it is pretty clear, has to be a rather hard task master and that he was. Let us see what Nayudu himself has to say about his own coaching early in his career, the principles of which he has followed to this day and almost religiously. Says Nayudu: "My cricket coach was my father to whom I owe a good deal of my success in later years. Very few today can possibly have the faintest suspicion that I was a defensive batsman pure and simple until my father took me in hand. His first instructions were: 'Go and hit every bowler and on any wicket. Go out in rain and sun and make yourself hardy.'" On this Nayudu comments as follows: "The text books of cricket may condemn such instructions from a coach. But I am convinced that those contain the soundest cricket principles.

The young boy must find out for himself what he can do and what he cannot. If he has the eyesight and the fleetness of foot to hit a Mahomed Nissar before his fastest delivery touches the ground, why should he not do it? If he can, by his quick footwork, knock a Grimmett off his length, why should he stand pegged to his crease and play back to him?"

While on the subject it will be interesting to record Nayudu's impressions of fast bowling while still a boy. Says Nayudu again: "I often asked myself what fast bowling was. My father was a great admirer of the peerless Ranji's magical prowess with the bat. I had heard that the great Ranji described a fast ball as one that could not be seen. But at that time I used to play cricket, morning and afternoon, even against the bigger boys of the town of Nagpur, and never had I come across a bowler whose deliveries I could not see. Puzzled, I put the question to my father one evening. What my father said in reply puzzled me still more. He said: 'A fast ball is one that beats a batsman, the wicket-keeper and reaches the boundary with the speed of thought. If it touches anything—be it the bat or the batsman's chin, the wickets or the wicket-keeper's rib—that's often smashed'. I looked bewildered but ventured to ask—'How can then one play it?' My father nodded understandingly and said, 'If you are asked to defend your wickets with a cane stick, can you possibly do it by trying to stop the ball? NO. To be effective you have got to hit the ball. So also with a fast ball. To play it

well you must not flinch but you definitely must hit it.' ”

The impression that these comments made by his father left in young C. K.'s mind is reflected in the following: “The description of a fast ball that my father had given me was designed not to frighten me but to instil courage into me. To play fast bowling well the things that really count are not the height nor the strength of the batsman but his courage and temperament.”

It is hardly to be wondered at that with such courageous a motto a young cricketer with all the gifts that God could bestow upon man, so far as sport went, would turn out later on into one of the most terrifically aggressive batsmen that the world has ever seen. Such a description of Nayudu as the “Indian Jessop” is not only not exaggerated but it adequately and correctly expresses the real calibre of C. K. Nayudu. During his visits to England C. K.'s power of hitting was commented upon by the greatest critics of the world in glowing terms. The secret of his hitting 36 sixes in one English season against the best bowlers that England could produce was not therefore just a chance happening but the result of carefully following a golden, if unconventional, principle, which may not be strictly according to those to be found in the “text books of cricket” as Nayudu himself has observed, but was certainly unique.

Even as the Nayudu family staged Shakespearean plays all by themselves the time came when they had a cricket Gymkhana composed of players who were all to be drawn exclusively from the Nayudu family. The name of the

institution was the "Nayudu Cricket Gymkhana" which during the latter part of the nineties used to be maintained at a cost of ten to fifteen thousand rupees a year. That probably demonstrates what great interest used to be taken by the Nayudu family in sport and the earnest manner in which cricket was regarded by them.

If the Wisden's or the Crickinia are looked up it will be seen, as has already been noted earlier, that Nayudu used to be spelt as "Naidu". The phonetics are certainly in favour of the new spelling incorporated from 1932 onwards, namely, "Nayudu". Charming stories are told about the confusion this name created in England and one of those related to a speaker who eulogized C.K. in a carefully prepared speech as "the shining light of the Naidu family which has produced such a brilliant orator as Mrs. Sarojini Naidu". During his first visit to England C. K. was often asked who Mrs. Sarojini Naidu was to him. C. K.'s uniform reply was: "She is a great lady, we come from the same land". The speaker in question probably did not hear C. K. correctly and that explains the excellent speech that he made with the exception of the little inaccuracy referred to which nevertheless was the burden of the entire speech. Analogies had been drawn between the wealth, fire and elegance of Mrs. Naidu's oratory with the dash, brilliance and artistry of C. K.'s batsmanship. That was the burden of the song and there is no doubt that if Mrs. Naidu's brilliant gifts of oratory brought C. K. a certain amount of reflected glory, C. K.'s unique batsmanship must have brought Mrs. Naidu back into the mind of many

Britishers even if for a fleeting moment. We are not aware if similar questions were ever put to Mrs. Sarojini Naidu but it is inconceivable that if such had been the case they would be allowed to pass without a burst of the finest rhetoric that could be dreamt of in King's English!

Anyway, C. K. grew up not only in physique but also in cricket fame and as to the school team at a very early age, he was to be indispensable to any and every team he was to assist later. We, Indians, are not generally very conscious of the need of maintaining records. There is no evidence that C. K. himself kept any of his early career which, if kept, might have filled volumes. It has often been said by great critics of the game that C. K. is a natural cricketer. It would have been unnatural for him to be otherwise. All that his coaching consisted of was in the shape of a highly courageous motto instilled into him by his father which has been already noted. It should be remembered that in the early part of this century in a place like Nagpur the conditions of play could only have been "un-natural", to wit, the wickets. The cricket pundits assert, and very rightly too, that the conditions of play to be offered to young cricketers should be of the very best. The reason is simple which is that during the impressionable age everything that happens is subconsciously recorded in the mind's eye. If, on the eve of going to bed, a ghost story is to be tabooed as a sleeping dose to a child, as it might very well shatter his or her nerves subconsciously for all time if the prescription were persisted with for any length of time, it is logi-

cal to suppose that a blow received by a hard cricket ball due to the uncertainty of an unprepared wicket will leave an everlasting feeling of dread in the mind of the young cricketer which more often than not results in his flinching and in not being able to "stand up to it". That is the greatest handicap that a young cricketer could start with. Not only does the accidental hit remove all traces of courage subconsciously, but it inevitably leads to such grave defects as will make orthodox batsmanship an impossibility for him to learn. When a batsman starts flinching as the ball is on the way, it is unlikely that he can remain in the correct position to deal with it. And once he is unable to keep his feet where these should be as the ball is bowled, it is practically an end for him in the matter of correct batsmanship.

All that I have said applies to young boys in general but if one of them could muster sufficient courage subconsciously as C. K. did to go out and tackle the ball that "could not be seen", it was bound to give him a psychological superiority over the rest of the young boys. C. K. had, thus, to be somewhat out of the ordinary and that only naturally. The cricket lessons that his father gave to C. K. could be summed up briefly as "Attack with fury and attack first". That being so, instead of the fast bowlers scaring young C. K. away, the courage with which this boy prodigy came up to meet them and their fastest deliveries scared away the speed-merchants themselves. As I have said, the psychological superiority over the rest was ingrained in C. K. on the field of play which was very much in evidence when he grew up and

was seen collaring the best bowlers on earth and in the most famous of cricket settings of the world. The atmosphere for these later matches was certainly different from what it had been in the early days at Nagpur. But the element of self-confidence was the same whether against another young boy of twelve or later on against such great masters as Harold Larwood or Mahomed Nissar, Grimmett or Amarsingh. It was the same way also when he was having a turn with the ball; he would always try to play a dominant role over the batsman. That unique self-confidence and self-mastery inculcated in him early by his father's teachings was to be an integral part of C. K., whether batting, bowling or fielding or leading a side in a local championship match as in a "Test" later on in life.

— THREE — IN BOMBAY—AS A LEADER

A schoolboy hero and a young champion, C. K. was soon to be talked of in Bombay, the home of Indian cricket. It was in 1916 that he was invited to represent the Hindus in the Bombay quadrangular and ever since he has been the idol of not only the cricket crowd of Bombay but that of all India and even outside.

The beginning of this century was not an age of photographic preponderance in this country and it is, therefore, not possible to record how young C. K. grew up in stature. But from the age of ten, it had been obvious that he was going to grow up alarmingly which he did and by the time he went to Bombay he was a tall six-footer and more—slim, wiry, full of vitality and electrifying to the crowd in his every movement. His fielding was a delight to watch and he did the most amazing things in bending, stooping, turning in all possible directions and yet retaining his balance to make an excellent piece of fielding or catching. There is nothing that a crowd loves to see more than agility and quickness of movement in which C. K. abounded. That was one of the chief factors that made him the idol of the crowd from the very first day that he stepped on the cricket green in Bombay and he stayed in the quadrangular and pentangular with few absences right upto 1939 when he won the Hindus the tournament.

Following the example of Bombay, Nagpur was soon to have its own quadrangular tournament and from 1919 to 1923 and also later on, Nayudu was continually playing in these matches and his side almost always came out with flying colours. Nayudu scored many centuries in this series which added lustre to his many fine batting achievements elsewhere in cricketing India which in those days was largely confined to Bombay and Poona.

If and when Nayudu's performances in the Bombay quadrangular—then the premier tournament of India—are recorded graphically many incidents of charm are bound to be told. But here it will be sufficient to say that from 1912 when the communal tournament commenced as a quadrangular upto the present time when it has developed into a pentangular, Nayudu has been the only batsman to collect over 2,000 runs in these matches in about fifty-two innings and is second only in the averages to V. M. Merchant. When it is recalled that the wickets for the quadrangular held on the Bombay Gymkhana ground for the most part and in Poona were not the batting paradises that they have been recently on the Brabourne Stadium, the merit of his achievement is considerably enhanced. It will be true to say that a fifty on a rain-sodden Poona or Bombay wicket when the quadrangular was still being played during the monsoon and against bowlers who were in no way inferior to the best that we can produce today was equal in merit to any of the mammoth individual scores that we see hit up in the altered conditions of the

present time. And viewed in this light Nayudu's performances in the Bombay tournament are unique.

Nayudu has always had a great fascination for bowling. When he takes up the leather to have a go it can be seen even from the stands that he has been thinking and trying and experimenting the whole time in order to beat the bat by his brains. With an easy action his run upto the wicket is not suspicious but often he can make the ball do quite a few tricks specially if the wicket is responsive to spin. In England, he earned high praises for the manner in which he bowled with his head. The same characteristic that distinguishes his batting—namely “attack”—is fully in evidence in his bowling too. His love for bowling is so great that at the age of fifty in spite of an injury to his bowling arm which made it difficult for it to be lifted at all, he would hardly go without an over or two and toss them high up just for the fun of it. A master strategist, it goes without saying that he could arrange his field to the best possible advantage for his own bowling as he did so well in the arrangement of fieldsmen for other bowlers under him. Guile in bowling was what appealed to him immensely and for hours on end at the nets he would bowl and bowl and enjoy it for its own sake.

Nayudu has been a born leader and this was obvious very early in his career when in spite of the handicap in stature and age his word was law to even the bigger boys. The conditions of cricket in India until very recently compelled a cricketer however great, or a general however shrewd, to play the second fiddle in leadership

on the field to the princes and noblemen except in Bombay during the pentangular series. C. K. got his education in the matter of leadership on the field of play under such a great captain as P. Vithal. There was, however, nothing much to learn as far as he was concerned because the plans and the strategy came to him instinctively and did not require to be based on the text books of cricket. Every little problem that cropped up was tackled on the spur of the moment and without the need for advance thinking. He was nearly always right and when he made an error that would invariably be on the side of an excess in attack.

— FOUR —

TRAVELS, WIT AND HUMOUR

“Play cricket and see the world” is a saying that has applied to C.K.’s case. Cricket has taken him to England more than just once but on State duty he has travelled far and wide in America. If it has not yet been possible for him to visit South Africa, Australia, the West Indies and other cricketing countries, it is because India entered the international arena rather late for Nayudu. There is talk today of a Holkar State Cricket team visiting Australia as soon as international shipping permits it. It goes without saying that C.K. in spite of the fact that he has passed the 50 mark will lead the team to the land of Noble, Armstrong and Don Bradman. If C. K. does so, it is safe to assume that the Australians who are cricketers will no doubt spot the value of C. K. to cricket even as India did Macartney’s or Ryder’s when they visited India at the fag end of their cricket career.

The cricket travels have no doubt widened C.K.’s outlook considerably. Half a dozen years ago when cricket fans in India used to go mad over individual marathon batting performances by Australian cricketers—and we are not talking about Bradman here—Nayudu was heard to observe that if India took to cast iron wickets, the same thing was likely to happen in this



*Capt C. K. Nayudu, a member of the
1932 Indian Cricket team to England,
snapped on landing on English soil*



As smart in the dinner jacket as in whites. Left to Right: C. K. Nayudu, "Plum" Warner the host, Maharajkumar of Vizianagram, C. B. Fry, Jack Hobbs and Wazir Ali.

country as well. He warned, however, that such wickets would not be in the best interests of the game and how true was his summing up of the entire situation can be seen from the cry of "back to the natural" that we hear today after a few years of double and treble centuries by Indian batsmen on the doped wicket that India decided to prepare over a wide area. This one single instance gives us an insight into Nayudu's real character. He wants to hit them and attack them but not when he has any undue advantage on his side. As Nayudu has said publicly he would like very much to score a 300 "if he can" provided the wicket gave as much chance to him as to the bowlers and not on such "turf" as made the bowlers feel beaten even before a single ball had been bowled.

His duties as leader of India at cricket and other important teams in this country have brought out certain distinguishing qualities which were not quite suspected in him. For instance, he can speak quite well before a gathering, if not quite in the same class as Mrs. Sarojini Naidu—no, not by a long chalk! But C. K. has his own way which suits cricket and cricketers admirably and displays the personality behind the words. His manner of talking in public is quiet, and without indulging in rhetorics he can come straight to the point and bring out the humour from every situation, however serious. In one of his speeches on the eve of the 1933-34 tests he said to an admiring crowd who wanted him to predict the result of the test match that was to follow, "Gentlemen, you have asked me to perform a very difficult task.

It is more than just possible that India will win the test match; but to say so in advance for me—the skipper—would not be polite! You should all remember that the Englishmen are our guests at the moment and we should say nothing which might wound their feelings,” —after a pause he added: “and for that matter to do anything which might hurt their feelings.” This, as will be seen, was subtle, but that the Indian Test captain never lacks in the sense of humour is known to those who have or had anything to do with him. • On another occasion, C.K. had led a very strong Holkar side to Calcutta to play Bengal in the East Zone final of the Cricket Championship of India. That C.K. and his men would win fairly comfortably appeared to be the general opinion and the many parties and receptions held in the honour of the visitors on the eve of the match brought out the best in local speakers who seemed to give the match away in advance to C. K. and his men! There was no doubt that such speeches and newspaper reports gave the Holkar side an extra dose of confidence. When the time came, however, Holkar just managed to avert an innings defeat and were only a score of runs ahead of Bengal at lunch on the third day. • It must have been a shock to C.K. but when he had by popular request to address the gathering during the lunch interval over the mike, C.K. straightened himself up to his full height and in his characteristic way deliberately said: “Ladies and gentlemen, I know why you have asked me to speak which is to make me admit defeat. But you are in for a shock now.

My boys will shortly demonstrate the art of getting a strong side out within eleven runs and no more! You may laugh at the suggestion but you won't laugh for long." And then turning to H. H. the Maharaja of Coochbehar, the Bengal Captain who was standing by his side, the tall man of ebony made a courtly bow and "whispered" but in a manner which made sure that it would be caught by the mike: "Your Highness, my hearty congratulations on winning a very difficult match." Such stories could be told to fill volumes but one of the very best is what C.K. himself is very fond of recounting. It is like this. On his first appearance at Lord's in 1932, Nayudu got the coveted hundred against the M.C.C. and, to be exact, remained not out with 118, out of a team total of 228. The M.C.C. included J.C. White, one of the most accurate left handers in England, and C.K. hit one or two of his characteristic sixers against White's legbreaks. A fieldsman was so jubilant in having found out what he thought was a weak spot that he came up to White between the overs and whispered something. C.K. chanced to hear it. Said the wise man: "Throw him another and he will be back to the pavilion in no time. That's a tip". As it happened however, C.K. had one more and yet one more and was still there hitting all round the wicket like fury when the All-India innings terminated. The unbeaten centurion returned to the pavilion with the rest of the fieldsmen and our friend the fieldsman came upto White once again and said: "Didn't I tell you that fellow would be back to the pavilion and he is." The quiet assurance

of the voice of the tipster, as C.K. puts it, who was obviously pulling someone's leg made C.K. nearly split his sides with laughter. At the dinner that followed a few days later, C.K. made a reference to this amusing story and remarked: "We have yet to learn many things from English cricketers. One of them is not to hit a sixer against a break when someone intelligent is about, on the field." All this, it goes without saying, was in the nature of a rag which was accepted by all concerned as such.

Leaving alone his public speaking, C.K. is one of those who can go on talking on any subject and, of course, on cricket for hours on end and is never more happy than when he is in youthful company. C.K.'s own theory seems to be—and this is by no means original—that the company of the young has a psychological effect in arresting the tendency of one's getting old in mind even when the bleak truth is that he is definitely advancing in years.

Nayudu, like Prof. Deedhar, is one of the finest cricket writers in the country which has been shown in bits throughout the book. But here it will be sufficient to say that his cricket writings have been as courageous as his batting or bowling.

— FIVE —

HEALTH, DISCIPLINE & POPULARITY

Few cricketers in India have been able to maintain such fine health through the years as Nayudu has done; even at the age of fifty he is a picture of radiant health. It is true that he has greyed at the temples and beyond them and has had recently to take off his singularly trimmed moustache perhaps because it betrayed the white in patches; but his eyesight for his age is still very good and his general fitness amazing. He can adapt himself to any climatic conditions and being a much travelled man knows the secret of adapting himself to the different conditions even as he can adjust himself to the varying wickets. Except for very brief illnesses of a minor character or accidents that are part and parcel of a long sporting career, C.K. has not been known to be confined to bed much. While playing polo he had a sharp fall once and broke his wrists which meant breaking any number of small bones in it. Although the best modern treatment by the finest surgeons in the Holkar State or in Bombay was available to him what he did was to go to a Hakim who was a specialist in bone setting. It may sound curious but it is true that the little known Hakim set C.K. alright, and well enough to bat and bowl with all his old strength and artistry in course of a fortnight or so! In this age of marvels in

modern surgery people will probably laugh at it. But that's that.

Wazir Ali, that very fine cricketer who has been one of the greatest figures in Indian cricket, has often been described as the "best-dressed cricketer of the East." That was because Wazir took great care in showing himself to the finest advantage on the cricket field and off it. Nayudu, however, has a quiet way of dressing up which for its sobriety and elegance is not to be ignored. A friend once asked him which 'dress he liked the best. Nayudu's instant reply was: "Achkan and Sherwani." He has often made it a point to attend the more important banquets and official functions in his "native" dress. "Native" is perhaps not quite the word because, as we know, Nayudu is a Madrasi by birth but has made Central India his home. However, whatever Nayudu might say, he is no doubt at his grandest and best when dressed in the simple but imposing "whites." That imparts to him a peculiar charm that is missing from any other outfit.

Nayudu's unique popularity may be appreciated from this little story:

At Allahabad three years ago, where Nayudu had taken his team down to play a charity match with the Governor of U.P.'s team, a local personage was looking for C.K. who had for a few minutes left the cricket to watch some of the tennis that was going on in an adjoining ground where leading Indian tennis players had foregathered. The local personage was seated on the first floor of the pavilion which afforded an excellent view

of the cricket ground as well as of the path leading to the tennis.

“He will be here any minute,” a local cricket official assured the visitor and added almost at once : “There he is coming back, can’t you see?” In the distance a tall man—a lonely figure—could certainly be seen making his way to the cricket ground, but the personage, obviously with greater commonsense than the official, dismissed him with the words : “That can’t be C.K. Where is the crowd on his heels?” The visitor was right and a few minutes later Nayudur turned up as usual followed by a motley crowd, signing score-cards and autograph books on the way as also odd pieces of paper and exercise books pressed into service. Nayudu must have signed millions of times during his cricket career which has been a fairly long one.

Nayudu is a great believer in the maintenance of discipline on the cricket field and off it. It is true that he himself, on occasions, has been accused of a lack of it but with about as much justification as he has been accused of drinking and snobbery. This is not to say that the great Nayudu in his long, eventful career has never made a mistake. That would not be humanly possible but that he has always maintained a splendid level of discretion and discipline is beyond question. It is true also that like all great men Nayudu has been a much-criticised and a much-vilified man in many quarters. It is not our intention to hold a brief for Nayudu but the fact remains that those who have known this great cricketer well will be able to say that he has on

the whole played the game and played it well. On the occasion of his golden jubilee Nayudu in a historic statement said: "By the grace of God, I have passed the fifty mark and, I am happy to say, without any major accident or incident." That would be about the correct summing up of his long career which has been distinguished and has brought distinction to India at home and abroad.

When all is said and done, Nayudu as a cricketer, as a gentleman and as a disciplinarian; and in spite of what has been said to the contrary in various quarters, has been the greatest that India has ever produced and his name will continue to draw thousands of devotees to the game in future as it has done in the past. When we say the greatest Indian, we are not forgetful of the fact that Ranji, Duleep and Pataudi were also Indian cricketers. But I submit that this trio of great cricketers were more English than Indian so far as the game of cricket is concerned. They learnt all their cricket in England, they displayed all their talent in that land and they have rightly been acclaimed as products of English cricket. Nayudu on the contrary is a genuine Indian product; he learnt his cricket in this country, he has devoted a life-time to the advancement of India's name in the cricket world and his personal wizardry has put India on the map. Even at the age of fifty he has offered his services to the Board for the improvement of young Indian cricketers and has submitted plans and plans in order to lead Indian cricket from more to more.

That Nayudu was able to feel the pulse of India correctly was due no doubt to his long association with Indian cricket and cricketers. That was reflected in his appeal to the authorities to improve the lot of the average player economically and otherwise and his advocacy of the introduction of professionalism. "Poverty is our greatest enemy," he asserted and emphasised that it was upto the Board to remove the economic distress of promising cricketers. Such things could only be said by an Indian cricketer, who is an Indian and has seen things for himself and known them to his finger tips. Yes, there can be no doubt that Nayudu is the greatest cricketer that India has produced if only for the fact that his entire life has been devoted to the cause of Indian cricket.

IN OTHER GAMES AND SPORT

Side by side with his cricket, Nayudu in his younger days displayed the same ability at every other game that he was called upon or had an opportunity to play, namely, hockey, football, tennis and athletics. At soccer he was a fullback and at hockey a forward. Even during his Golden Jubilee celebrations Nayudu, at the age of fifty, appeared in one or two exhibition hockey matches just for the fun of it which nevertheless gave glimpses of his old form. He could, for instance, distribute the ball with rare judgement which revealed masterly strategy although, it is true, he could do so very occasionally which at so advanced an age was not to be wondered at. But at taking a short corner he could still be a force to reckon with in any company. The stopping of the ball and hitting it like a flash came as easily to him as hitting the best bowler on earth out of the ground. It does not require one to be a very rare analyst to know that the fundamental principle is the same with only such variation as is necessary to meet a particular objective.

In sprinting Nayudu was superb and there was a time when with proper training he might have turned out to be a champion sprinter. Without intensive scientific training as is available for athletics today, he nevertheless has the record of doing the 100 yards sprint in under

11 seconds. When he first made his mark in big cricket in Bombay, he was a livewire in the outfield, and whatever his position, anything within 20 yards either way of him could be stopped or held unerringly. His sprinting abilities, his quickness of movement and his excellent eyesight all came into play in one little but brilliant piece of fielding which lasted probably a couple of seconds but the memory of which could last a life-time.

If Nayudu's abilities in other sport have not been carefully recorded by historians or commented upon more frequently by critics that is because his performance on the cricket green surpassed and overshadowed all others. Even in billiards Nayudu, like the Nawab of Pataudi, is extremely good and about ten years ago in a Bombay billiards saloon he surprised P.K. Deb, then the All-India Amateur Champion, by the skill he exhibited. Deb, of course, turned out to be the winner in a game of 250 up but not before Nayudu had put in a few good breaks which showed beyond doubt that with more time devoted to billiards he could have figured without any feeling of embarrassment whatsoever in the best of company. Deb later remarked: "Nayudu seems to have been born for all the games and not only for cricket—he's quite good at billiards, you know!"

Nayudu was and is a very fine tennis player and there was a time when in the doubles at least he thought of participating in the major tournaments of India but was generally prevented from doing so due to the calls of cricket. Tennis and cricket are generally played simultaneously all over India and that is the reason why

Nayudu could not make a greater name in the former as the time necessary could not be devoted to it. He has, however, lifted a few important doubles tournament in Central India and elsewhere. In 1933-34, tennis was cited as the reason why he could not accept the invitation to play for an important team up in the north as "he would not like to let his partner down." Nayudu plays squash very well, but is not as interested in it today as he used to be in the past ever since a German doctor told him with convincing arguments based on "facts" that squash considerably reduces the sporting life, if not the actual life, of any one, so great a strain is it on the physical reserves of a person. Of course, it was just the opinion of an individual, however eminent, and this need not make the devotees to squash panicky and stay away from the game. Nayudu, however, had too many calls by other sports and could thus afford to "listen" to that German doctor.

In fact, Nayudu was proficient in any game that he cared to take up although singularly enough his is not the temperament to sit down at a table and play cards which in his station of life is generally inevitable. The modern drawing rooms and clubs all over the country—nay, all over the world—are infested with this cards business but Nayudu has his own way of turning such invitations down, but without giving offence to anyone.

That Nayudu has been a fine horseman has perhaps already been inferred from the mention of his fall from horse-back while playing polo which injured his wrists rather seriously. In point of fact, he is a very keen rider

and there was a time when the morning dose of exercise consisted of riding for long hours. Incidentally, for the purposes of cricket he believes in simple physical jerks and ~~not~~ heavy exercises as some people seem to think necessary. Nayudu's body has, therefore, retained its power but consistent with slimness, looseness of the limbs and agility; heavy muscles are taboo in his physical make-up.

Nayudu is a 'Shikari,' fond of big games which abound in the forests of Central India. His off-season holidays have often been taken up by this princely pastime and as with bat in hand so with the rifle he has a very sure eye which makes him an unerring marksman. Belonging to a native State, his opportunities for 'shikar' have often been on gigantic scale, but he prefers the quieter way in such engagements and would avail of, say, half-a-day while even in the big cities if there were snipe-shooting or the like available within reasonable distance.

Nayudu is an excellent chauffeur—quick, sure but cautious when necessary—and the lives of the passengers are generally safe with C.K. at the wheels. In the past wherever he went for cricket he would insist upon driving the car and on learning the traffic regulations of the big cities. Once, in Bombay, during the quadrangular, the representative of a firm of automobiles visited him at his hotel and enquired if he would like to buy a car. Nayudu replied that he had a small one at home and would not, therefore, need any. The salesman, however, was insistent and after much persuasion C.K.

agreed to have a look at the firm's stocks. An appointment was made and after lunch the next day a huge, big, new Rolls Royce drove up and parked at the Hotel portico. Nayudu was naturally loath to get into it, but was prevailed upon to do so by the representative referred to. The journey to the showrooms of the automobile company on the outskirts of the city was made without suspicion but while alighting C.K. found quite a big gathering at the entrance all ready with garlands and smiles.

Not unused to such welcome, Nayudu nevertheless was constantly looking behind his shoulders to find out who the honoured guest might be—he had had no notice of such a reception! But there was nothing that he could see and finally an elderly, well-dressed gentleman came forward and shook him by the hand and requested him to step in which he did. It transpired later that the representative had been only asked to contact C.K. and find out if he would condescend to ride the magnificent Rolls Royce during his stay in Bombay as also to visit the showrooms which would be regarded as a favour as it would be excellent publicity for the firm. The salesman, however, had not been able to conquer his instinctive tendency of making a sale at the expense of C.K. Nayudu, however, politely told the automobile boss that although he was in a native State “I am not a prince yet,” and that he might be saved the attention of a million eyes on him by riding on the streets of Bombay a Rolls Royce which was not his own. This was appreciated by the automobile boss who nevertheless insisted on his

using a smaller car to which Nayudu finally agreed. But when the car came to be parked in front of the show-rooms, it did not appear to be so small after all although it was not the shining Rolls Royce any more!

Today Nayudu has a beautiful automobile which was brought out from America having been specially ordered by C.K. himself during his visit to the States. It is a lovely car and with C.K. at the wheels, as it glides along the streets of Indore, the people of the Holkar State look at it with a reverence second only to that for their Ruler and the ruling family.

— SEVEN —

AT HOME AND AT WORK

In private life Nayudu is a quiet, unassuming gentleman—probably the most happy while in the domestic setting unless perhaps he is at the cricket. He has a large family and his children have all been brought up in an atmosphere of sport. One of his greatest ambitions in life seems to be that he will always be able to beat his eldest son aged about fourteen at table tennis. • The struggles between father and son for supremacy are really interesting to watch in which neither gives any quarter although probably C.K. could give a little with his longer reach and greater experience. But young Nayudu is exceptionally quick on his feet and tries to give his father all the trouble that he possibly can. It is a rare treat to see C. K.'s sons watching an important cricket match in which their father is participating. So great is their interest in their father's achievements on the field of play that they have often travelled long distances in order not to miss an opportunity of seeing Dad make a possible hundred. Like their father, they have all taken to games early and the elder ones even at a tender age have shown all the signs of following in their father's footsteps. The lesson that Nayudu has been handing down to them is the same that his father had given to him. It is nearly always like this—" Balla Sidha Rakho,

Jorese Maro. Ghabro Mat," that is, "Keep the bat straight. Hit it hard. Don't funk." That is the philosophy of Nayudu's cricket.

The story is often told how Nayudu was offered a substantial job in the Patiala State early in his cricket career as well as a trip to England for purposes of higher education. It is said that Nayudu—then at College and with all the education he had received at home—turned it down for "personal" reasons. With the buoyancy of youth he was determined not to trade on his cricket. That has always been his motto in life and if he later joined the Holkar State, it was primarily because he was sure of his ability for the post he was to fill. His cricketing reputation was so great and his general make-up so convincing that he might have got a prize post almost anywhere in India had he wanted it. In his duties, as a State official, he is assiduous and believes in clock-like precision. It is but natural that cricket should have taken up quite a good deal of his time but once back to the State from a cricket tour he would be steeped in his work for all he was worth.

Nayudu's stature and temperament all fitted him admirably to a position in the army. It was natural, therefore, that he would have made his mark in it which he did. Today he is a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Indore State Army, but his excellent make-up for a responsible officer of the State has taken him near the ruler. Probably as wellknown as any other man in this country, his presence in the Holkar State has given the State a distinction which other states as great as Holkar lack. It is but

natural that with such an able officer as also so very great a sportsman in the state its entire sporting life should have been built up on a high ideal. The schools and colleges of Indore get all the facilities for sport and for all important sporting engagements the State declares holidays so that the heroes of tomorrow might have an opportunity of watching in action the heroes of today. It can hardly be disputed that Nayudu's presence and his towering personality in the cricket world have attracted many cricketers of all-India fame to the Holkar State. His personal example in matters of sport, his belief in its cleanliness and its beauty, are being followed to the letter which is a great boon to sport in India. Discipline comes foremost in the field of sport and this is what is being assiduously cultivated by the sportsmen of the Holkar State, young and old.

Nayudu is no doubt fortunate to be in a State which appreciates not only his usefulness as an officer but also his greatness as a cricketer. As we have noticed, his presence has left its indelible impression on the sporting life of the Holkar State. The Maharaja himself is literally mad about cricket and often he can be seen to pace up and down in excitement while his State team is engaged in an important cricket battle. There is nothing that His Highness will not do to see his State team at the top of Indian cricket. In March, 1945, Holkar narrowly missed the distinction of winning the Cricket Championship of India, but there are indications that this honour cannot be far off with such a great cricketer as Nayudu and so hearty a patron as His Highness together shaping

the destiny of Holkar State cricket.

An interlude here may perhaps be permissible and people in general may not be aware of the fact that His Highness was personally managing the State team in many of the Ranji Trophy matches in 1944-45. The enthusiasm that he displayed while his team was winning and the patience that he evinced while his team was not doing so well are examples, in point of sincerity, to all those managing important cricket teams. So great was his keenness for winning the national championship that His Highness could have done anything in the world to win it. But when Bombay won the honours not only did he not betray any sign of disappointment when he walked up to C. K. but assured him that he and his men had done their best and the time would come when they would have better luck. Everyone knew at heart, however, how sad and disappointed His Highness had been over the failure and in an age when club officials do not speak to club men even when they have fought well and gallantly but lost because they have lost, it was pleasing to find His Highness setting such a fine example and, in addition, making the promise of a gift of an Australian tour to the Holkar team as soon as conditions permitted. That should be the spirit of cricket.

Men in any walk of life who achieve fame are bound to have people talking about them and often in uncomplimentary terms. It does not matter to such know-alls whether they really know what they are talking about. There has been no exception in the case of Nayudu. A story that often goes the rounds is that C. K. drinks

like a fish. This is of course nothing but pure imagination—the result of fertile brains. Even so, such stories as the following have gone round and round until they have seemed to bring conviction to the public who have seen C. K. only from the ringside. Years ago, in a Bombay picture house as the late performance came to a close, C. K. while coming out of the auditorium with his friends stumbled a bit. In the next day's cricket C. K. got a blob which was rather unusual for him. The inference was immediately drawn and spread—apparently by someone who must have been at the pictures the night before and had seen C. K. “stumble”—that Nayudu had been frightfully drunk. Such nonsense has often been spread irresponsibly but it may interest the general public to know—which I say from personal experience for the last twenty years or so—that C. K.'s drinks have always consisted of *aqua puris* and of course, sweet drinks. The story that has been recounted earlier of a dinner on board the ship would be incomplete without the mention of a relevant fact. And that is the captain's persistent and insistent requests to the Major—C. K. had not yet become Lt.-Col.—to have just a sip of whisky, brandy or gin or even a spot of beer which brought forth the reply from C. K. with the same insistence and persistence as the Captain had displayed in his requests. And that was: “Thanks very much but I don't drink”.

Nayudu, however, is one of the heaviest smokers among Indian cricketers. That is perhaps his one ‘vice’. But there are few sportsmen in India who regulate their

diet as strictly as C. K. does. He is nevertheless extremely fond of Indian food and instances are by no means rare when not once during his long stays in European hotels in India did he partake of the European dinner unless there was a formal one. Whenever possible he would throw out a hint while accepting invitations—he is very much in demand wherever he goes—that the food might be Indian. On other days which were few he would go hunting for Indian restaurants even as he did in London and find his favourite dishes. Once in New Delhi while putting up at the Viceregal Lodge as A. D. C. on duty to H. H. the Maharaja of Holkar, he took the first opportunity of a little leisure to rush to a friend's place to enquire "Kuch Kabab Roti Hye? Mye Bhukha Hun". He is no doubt very fond of rich, spiced food, but his fondness to keep himself fit is greater and he generally manages to resist the temptation.

As a man he is polite and courteous with correct manners and the 'devilry' attributed to him is as baseless as his alleged drinking vice. He is pleasant company, abounding in intelligence and humour, besides being always prepared to rough it out whenever necessary; as a matter of fact he loves it. He is a fine conversationalist and is never the bore which many cricketers unfortunately are. That accounts, to a very great extent, for his popularity in clubs, drawing rooms and parties.

A casual visitor to Indore who happens to know anything about sport generally makes it a point to go and meet the great cricketer. As he enters the house through the porch he cannot but be struck with the simplicity

with which things are arranged in Nayudu's home. There is a modern drawing room, all in green, as well as a 'baitakkhana' in the Indian style where there is a continuous flow of visitors to meet Nayudu whenever he is at home. That house in Indore probably contains the largest number of odd bits of presents, starting from a five-foot shield to the tiniest scarf pin that one has ever seen. There are lovely tea sets, writing materials; silver and gold cups and medals, miniature cricket bats and balls, also in silver and gold; any number of cigarette cases and cigarette holders, "addresses" bound in mahogany, silver or gold frames; lunch baskets, statuettes and hundreds of other delightful little things which have been showered on Nayudu throughout his cricket career. These are taken special care of and one thing that will strike the visitor is that all round, the colour predominant—whether in the paint, the curtains, the sofa settees or the cushions—the colour is always green in different shades. Who knows that C. K.'s long association with the game which is characterised by 'green' does not explain C. K.'s preference for this one of the many colours and hues. There is something more which is the scrap book—a black-bound one of press clippings—that is a mine of information regarding Nayudu's activities on the field of play and which draws hundreds of visitors, mostly students of the State to C. K.'s house in an unending stream throughout the year. It is a pity that such clippings are available only from 1932 onwards and are mostly confined to the 1932 and 1936 Indian tours of England in which C. K. was to play so eminent a part.

Nayudu is an intelligent reader and his taste for reading covers diverse subjects. He writes a very good hand which he maintains has been improving with the years to which a friend retorted: "Yes, as a result of practice". The fact is that no one in India in the sporting sphere is more in demand for autographs than C. K. has always been.

Nayudu's family Deity is the Goddess Kali. He will never miss an opportunity of visiting the Kali temples wherever cricket takes him in this country. That is as important to him as cricket and more.

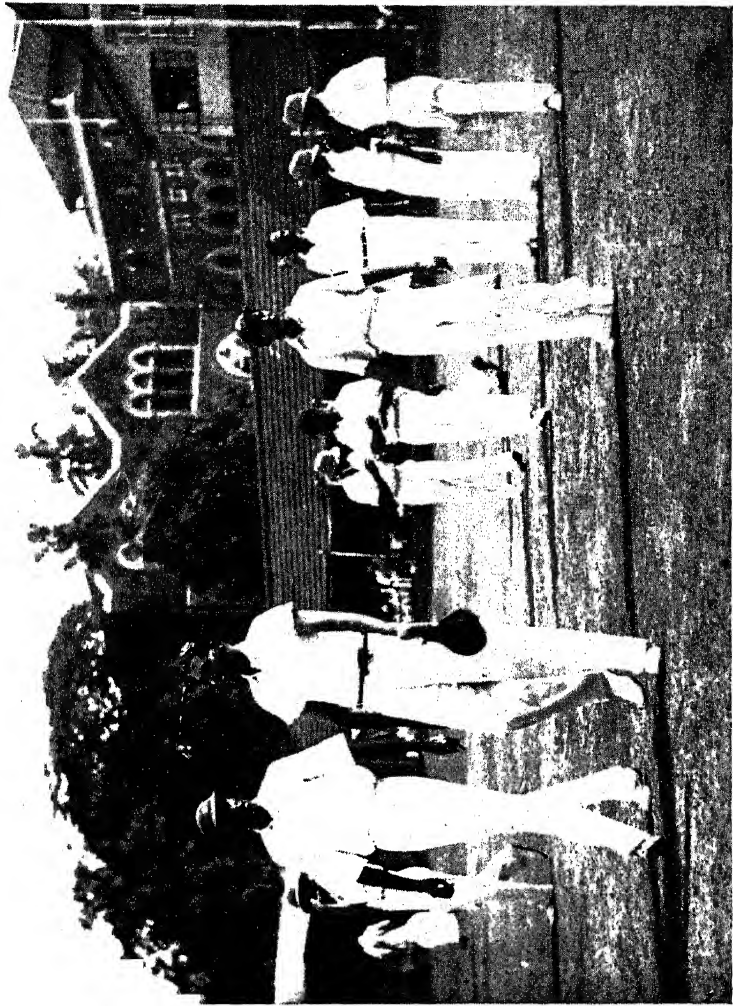
In short, C. K. Nayudu is one of those Indians who through cricket and otherwise have combined the best features of all the lands they have visited. As comfortable in the gayest party, he is equally a part and parcel of a temple when he visits one. Lively on the cricket field and even while playing with his children, he is sombre and grave when it is a question of discipline or teaching that has to be attended to. A cricketer but an every-day-worker as well, equally at home in princely settings as under a thatched roof where he has an old friend, modern but religious, that is Cottari Kankaiya Nayudu.

— EIGHT —

A “ LIGHTNING ” FIELDSMAN

“You have only to see him pick up a ball to know that he is a born cricketer”, thus said Jack Hobbs, one of the greatest cricketers of the world and an incomparable fieldsman at cover point, referring to C. K. Nayudu after an extensive tour that the English favourite did with the finest all-rounder of India. This was during the tour of Maharajkumar of Vizianagram’s team in India and Ceylon in 1930. Vizianagram had collected a grand team including Hobbs and Sutcliffe, the world-renowned opening pair of batsmen besides C. K. Nayudu and his brothers C. S. and C. R., Mustaq Ali, Dilawar Hussain, S. R. Godambe and other reputed Indian cricketers.

That was really the first team in which Indian stars had played together with stars from abroad and it was natural that the Indians played second fiddle to the more renowned components of the team especially as they were no others than Jack Hobbs and Herbert Sutcliffe. But not so, C. K. Nayudu. Ready to learn all that there was to be learnt he nevertheless displayed fearlessly what he had to show the distinguished visitors to India. When, therefore, at the conclusion of the tour in Ceylon the pressmen, as usual, gathered round Jack Hobbs and asked his opinion about the Indian idol, the reply quoted above was given.



On the 1936 English tour Nayudu leading his men on to the field in the first test in 1933-1934 on the Bombay Gymkhana ground. With him is Nissar and behind him Amarnath. Namele



C. K. Nayudu and Wazir Ali at the Brabourne Stadium, Bombay with

H. E. Sir Roger Lumley, Governor, of Bombay.

Nayudu has been a great fieldsman in any position and at all times he has displayed as great an interest in this department of the game, if not more, as in any other. It will be true to say that Nayudu has devoted a life-time to the cultivation of the art of fielding ever since the first day that he came across a cricket bat and a ball. His natural quickness, his instinctive agility and his powers of sprinting and, above all, a God-gifted reflex that acted up to anything—all these combined to make Nayudu one of the greatest fieldsmen anywhere in the world. In point of ingenuity it was breath-taking even as Leary Constantine, the West Indian, adjudged one of the greatest fieldsmen in the world did during his visit to India, also as a guest of the Maharajkumar of Vizianagram.

Nayudu had all the ingredients in him that go to make a unique fieldsman. But by themselves they do not always make a fieldsman of world class. Something more is imperative and that is the will to combine them through constant cultivation of the “gifts” which Nayudu religiously did. Cricket has always meant to him a minimum of one hour devoted to chasing, picking up and catching the cricket ball on all kinds of turf, from the rough to the velvety, and at all heights, from the skier to the one which travels low and fast, parallel to the ground, hardly half-an-inch above it. This is a tall order no doubt but to this Nayudu invariably responded throughout his career as all great fieldsmen must. It involved jumping, running, sprinting, diving and what not.

Nayudu has always believed in the adage that a good fielding side with moderate batting and bowling has a greater chance over a bad fielding side with considerably better batting and bowling. Wherever his cricket travels have taken him Nayudu has invariably spoken for long hours on the subject of fielding. What is more he has always acted up to his profession and even today at the age of fifty his cricket practice means at least sixty minutes of playing about with a cricket ball in which all the members of his team must participate.

When Jack Hobbs paid that unique compliment he was certainly not exaggerating. Those who saw Nayudu fielding in the slips against Arthur Gilligan's M. C. C. team in Calcutta and remember his running Andy Sandham out will be able to bear testimony to Hobbs' observations. Sandham had played a fast one from Captain Howlett which was in the nature of a snick and travelled low and fast along the ground towards the waiting slips who were four in number. The ball somehow eluded one of them but not before touching his hands which appreciably retarded its speed. Sandham in response to the call of his partner moved up a couple of paces but all the time looking towards the slips to make sure where the ball had gone. It was all a matter of a split second but Nayudu did some amazing acrobatics in turning round, retrieving the ball low down and finally throwing the wicket down in one continuous motion with an ingenious backhand throw of which Sandham was a close but a helpless spectator. Fully conscious of the danger, he nevertheless seemed to

be completely paralysed; he just looked on and allowed himself to be run out. Nothing more amazing has been seen in India on the cricket arena unless it was Leary Constantine who with his panther-like movements did the most unbelievable things in picking up and throwing in—the delight of the crowd but the death-warrant of the unwary with bat in hand.

The greatest asset of a fieldsman is his power of anticipation which Nayudu seemed to possess to the nth degree. It was almost a sixth sense in him that prompted him to act in a flash having known all at once what the bowler was going to do and how the batsman was likely to counteract it. It is this element of anticipation which often makes an extremely difficult catch look easy. On innumerable occasions, Nayudu has brought his powers of advance judgement into full play and picked up rasping drives or made catches which fieldsmen less gifted could never dream of stopping or catching. Once in Lahore—perhaps against Jardine's M. C. C. team—playing gully to a slow bowler he had moved up to within a few inches of the bat while the ball was still in the air to hold a catch barely six inches from the blade as it was on its downward course. It was not a catch as a catch is ordinarily understood, but to Nayudu it came naturally.

Like all cricketers Nayudu while young was mostly on the outfield, but gradually he came nearer the wicket particularly when he took seriously to bowling and commenced leading representative teams in big cricket which generally requires a captain to be as near the "scene" of

action as possible. While in the outfield C. K. did the most amazing things which were possible as he had not only a sure eye and an amazing reflex but was a first-class sprinter as well. Many of his outstanding catches which are numerous on the fields of Nagpur, Bombay, Poona and elsewhere are still talked about by old cricketers. He was as sure of holding a skier without fuss or bother as he was in holding anything low that his finger tips could get to. Later on he was generally a close field but whenever required he would go out in the country which he loved to do and with all the old-time ease and elegance. He was an excellent thrower-in and it is said that in the athletic sports meetings of the past in which "throwing the cricket ball" used to be an interesting item, he threw a cricket ball as far as 110 yards or more which though not unusual was certainly noteworthy. All the time he has been a distinguished fielder in the slips and if his name has not been brought into prominence as that of a Hammond or a Chipperfield that was because the press in India in the good old days were content to shower all the praises on batting performances especially when those were of an aggressive nature and the ball was frequently in the air, and perhaps also a little towards bowling performances as well. Incidentally, that is one of the reasons why in this little book Nayudu's fielding has been taken up first as should be the case in any book that proposes to discuss cricket and cricketers. Nayudu has a match record of catching seven men in an important fixture in Bombay about half of those having been taken off fast bowling; it was of

course a one-innings match. Few batsmen could afford to snick it with C. K.'s long brown arms anywhere behind the wicket. When the silly point theory was being worked to death and even before that Nayudu would be often up within a couple of yards in front of the batsman even if the batsman was known to be a terrific hitter such as, say, Doli Kapadia and his kind.

Nayudu did not specialise in any particular fielding position; he had no need to do so because he was a specialist in every position on the field except in wicket-keeping. But even as Frank Woolley once kept wickets in a test with the regular injured, Nayudu in his long career has had a few occasions when he was compelled to put on the gloves. Mostly the pads underneath were missing, but he nevertheless displayed that had he ever bothered to take this vital position up he would have, as in every other department of the game, made a name for himself. His bowling and fielding, however, were too valuable to be wasted for the sake of wicket-keeping, which is only one department of the game.

More than one famous critic in India and England have paid the finest tributes possible to his amazing fielding abilities in spite of the fact that Nayudu visited Lord's—the Mecca of Cricket—at the age of thirtyseven. The secret of his success lies not only in his "gifts" but in assiduous practice for a life-time. The high example he has set in this direction is seen from the splendid array of fieldsmen among the cricketers who have been near him, to wit, his brother C. S. Nayudu, Mushtaq Ali, J.N. Bhaya and a host of others who may not be as great as

the trio mentioned but not less keen or industrious.

Nayudu believes in the fact that with more systematic cultivation of the art of fielding, India with her present batting and bowling can give the toughest fight to any cricketing country of the world. It may be a little exaggerated, but there is no doubt that it is an excellent piece of advice which if taken to heart by young, aspiring cricketers is bound to put India on the map more conspicuously than it is today.

— NINE —

“ORIENTAL SPLENDOUR” IN BATTING

The finest critics of the world have vied with one another for sparkling superlatives and appropriate phrases to describe C. K. Nayudu's batsmanship with force and picturesqueness. Frequently honoured with a place for his batting alone in the mythical “World XI” the chief consideration that has weighed with the self-appointed selectors of a “world” team has been his magnificent arrogance with the bat which is so foreign to countries where cricket has generally developed into drab science in which all that really counts is the averages. Nayudu has, however, in his own way brought into cricket something that it generally lacks but which it will always need if it is to remain one of the most glorious of sport that man has invented for himself.

His father's teachings which exhorted him “to go out in sun and rain and hit the ball hard” have not only been followed to the letter by Nayudu but have been handed down by him to younger men who claim the honour of being his disciples. In Nayudu's own words, “the pleasant sound which one hears when the willow comes into contact with that scarlet round arrangement to make it fly to all cardinal points of space for sixes and fours is less in evidence now. India can ill afford to neglect this style of batting since her oriental genius is

noted for its venture and the greater repertoire of shots than are mentioned in the text-books of cricket. That is the glory of the game." And then he goes on to say: "Indians can never regard themselves as cricketers if they are not brilliant, whether it is in club cricket or big cricket or test cricket. Our climate, temperament, physique and our very mould all tend towards making us the finest exponents of the game." Compare this with what Neville Cardus, that prince among cricket writers, has to say on Indian cricket while describing a grand stroke by Nayudu. Said Cardus: "If cricket matches were decided not by the score book's arithmetic but according to the moments which liberate imagination, India would not have been adjudged the inferior team in spite of defeat. These players bring to the game something it must always need, something the English player cannot give, unless he is a genius—I mean spontaneous beauty, rapid curves, and sweeps of body and bat, runs by subtle sleight-of-hand not by accountable Science . . . The Indians are not only artistic in themselves, but the cause that art is in others—England's batting on Monday borrowed from the dusty foemen's temples of inspiration." This was in connection with the Old Trafford test in 1936 when Mushtaq Ali, one of Nayudu's hand-moulded disciples, along with Merchant, gave an exhibition of batting, each scoring a magnificent hundred that was the symbol of "oriental splendour" on the field of cricket.

It is in this background that Nayudu's performances with the bat have to be judged. The unimaginative

statistician who assesses the well-being of a nation in terms of pound, shilling and pence and not by its ideals, or the one who judges cricket according to averages is not likely to appreciate the import of all that Nayudu's batsmanship—not merely batting—means to the game.

Nayudu's first success in an “international” match was against the M.C.C. in 1925-26 when he hit up an amazing 153 with strokes which “terrified the fieldsmen, dazzled everybody's eyesight, broke all rules of batting, science and logic, and stirred the crowd to wonder and delight.” He was at the wickets for 100 minutes during which he hit eleven sixes and thirteen fours against such great bowlers as Maurice Tate, and George Geary supported by Mercer, Boyes and Astill—which firmly engraved the name of Nayudu in the cricket annals of the world for all time. Nayudu dared the might of England that day in the sporting capital of India and succeeded. The teachings ingrained in him while still a young boy came into full play. He made cricket history.

A little story may perhaps be recounted here. P. Vithal, the captain of the Hindus, the champion community then in Bombay, for whom Nayudu gave this incomparable and inimitable demonstration of fireworks—had led the combined B. B. & C. I. Ry. and Rajputana team against Arthur Gilligan's men at Ajmere but hopelessly failed on the matting wicket, their batting producing only 47 runs in the second venture. That match was over on November 27, 1925, but Vithal enraged with certain happenings including the abject failure

made bold to say: "Let them come to Bombay and we will see." Three days later, on November 30 in Bombay, Nayudu gave that heroic exhibition and thus stood by his skipper in a manner which not only justified every word that Vithal had said but went further which was to put India on the map for all time even as Ranji's genius had brought India, still an infant, unique prestige in cricket.

It should be remembered that when Nayudu played that historic innings he had crossed the thirty mark which with few exceptions as in the distinguished case of Grimmett, that wonder bowler from Australia, is rather late for entry into international cricket.

Nayudu's early performances have not been recorded in the way these should have been, which is indeed a pity. Few details are available and ending 1928 we have at best scrappy news about his doings unless these were in the quadrangular. According to Nayudu himself the centuries he had scored in his younger days were many but "we had not yet newspaper men running after us nor did we have the time to paste paper clippings on a book to read and enjoy and lose our heads over when none was looking." Nevertheless the following outstanding performances can be traced, namely, 268 retied against Hyderabad Selected for H. H. the Maharaja of Vizianagram's team in 1919, 256 for Madras against Vizianagram in 1920, 211 against Mhow Gymkhana for Yeshawant Club (Indore) in 1924, and 164 against the Hindu Gymkhana for Telugu Young Cricketers in the Purshottam Das Shield Final in 1919.

As I have said, no details worth mentioning are available but, according to author Polishwalla, Nayudu had scored 65 centuries upto 1928 which is more than likely. Most of these scores were put up in Nayudu's inimitably aggressive way which included hundreds of sixes all over the country. At Ajmere in 1926, he made 92 runs in twenty minutes playing for Yeshawant Club (Indore) against Aligarh University which in those days used to be a formidable cricketing side. Besides, in point of fast scoring, Nayudu's 137-run-partnership with K. G. Pardeshi for the first wicket for the Hindus when they were racing against the clock against the Presidency at Bombay in 1923 was one of those performances which could be compared to the best he has played at any time anywhere in his long career.

In 1916, at the age of about twenty, Nayudu entered the Quadrangular arena and, according to his own version, one of his first scoring shots in the premier tournament while playing against the Europeans which included Tarrant, among others, was a six! That was the spirit in which he had entered big cricket and that was how he left it when the time inevitably came. In point of fact the quotation earlier in the chapter is from Nayudu's review of the 1939 Pentangular in which he led the Hindus for the last time and won the tournament as a parting gift to Hindu cricket.

Nayudu's value to the Hindus cannot be assessed in terms of the centuries he put up in the Quadrangular and the Pentangular although he had his fair share of

these. His was not the temperament to look for the hundred once he was in the eighties and often he completed his century with a daring sixer off the most deadly bowler opposing him. Nevertheless many of his performances were unique as in 1924 when he put up a brilliant 135 against the Europeans in the first match. In 1935 the Hindus led by Nayudu were in the impossible position of having to collect, in absurdly quick time, 300 odd runs in the fourth innings to win and although Nayudu was not the same youthful and delightfully aggressive batsman that he had been in the past, the undying spirit was there and, believe it or not, he went for the runs, and put up 53 runs in no time at all before falling a victim to a mighty skier. That match revealed another side of Nayudu's character. Having tried and failed to effect a win, the Hindus in the end following a colossal post-tea collapse were in danger of losing the match to the Muslims. C.S., his brother, had got ill in course of the match and had been laid up in bed with mums. He had a high temperature and was almost in a state of delirium. But when the Hindus were threatened with defeat, Nayudu, now in the pavilion, rose to even greater heights than he had done in the middle. He made a decision and that was to call C.S. from his sick bed and make him take up his stance at the wicket, if necessary, to save the Hindus from defeat. Nearly everyone was opposed vehemently to the idea, but the majestic Nayudu was unbending in his attitude and finally cars sped off to the Tajmahal Hotel to fetch C.S. The younger Nayudu with his eyes blood-red under

the stress of an unusually high temperature, scarcely able to hear or speak, took a few moments to realise that an order had been sent out by his skipper. Groping for his cricket clothes from under the rug, C.S., nevertheless, was up on his tottering legs in an instant and dressed up in a hurry stumbling and swaying in every little movement. Helped by a couple of escorts especially sent out C.S. somehow managed to make the drive to the Bombay Gymkhana ground, the scene of the cricket, but just as he was at the pavilion gates, the huge crowd was seen melting away. For a moment C.S. and his escorts thought that the last two Hindu batsmen at the wicket had after all been able to hold the fort and to save the side. But soon from the great cry that went up it was apparent that the Hindus had lost the match by default. Young C.S. whose determination and strength of mind had been able to conquer his physical deficiency so long now fell in an unconscious heap on the pavilion steps. C.K. and his brother no doubt failed to save the Hindus that evening but the indomitable spirit of the Nayudus brought forth respect and admiration from all. The Paynter incident is known all over the world because he had slipped out of a hospital bed, saved England and returned to the care of the nurses. How many know about C.S. and C.K.'s amazing gallantry that day in November, 1935?

Besides the Quadrangular, the Madras Presidency matches and a few other annual events which were fairly regular, cricket in India during Nayudu's early days had another feature in the shape of tournaments at different

centres such as Delhi, Gwalior and Ajmere, which were invariably prefixed by the high-sounding "All-India." Some of these like the All-India tournament run by the Roshanara Club of Delhi were occasionally really all-India in character as when the Nawab of Bhopal, the Maharaja of Patiala, the Maharajkumar of Vizianagram and others took the trouble of collecting strong sides. In such tournaments Nayudu invariably fared well and the year in which he was unable to participate for one team or the other would be regarded as a slack one for the tournament. Playing for Vizianagram's team in the Delhi All-India tournament, Nayudu, like Wazir Ali, often did wonders. The more difficult the pitch, the more dangerous the bowling—Nayudu was generally at his supreme best. On the lovely Roshanara ground as also at Ajmere and elsewhere his mighty hits are still talked about and relished in the process. Later on, the various tours such as the Bombay cricketers' tour of Ceylon, invitation matches at Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Karachi, Lahore, Nagpur, Bombay, Poona, Surat, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and various other places saw the great cricketer in action to the unforgettable delight of the local enthusiasts. Many of the brilliant performances, the amazing centuries that Nayudu put up in the various centres sent the crowds to ecstasies. A century on his first appearance in India against Jardine's M.C.C. team while playing for H. E. the Governor of Punjab's XI at Lahore, a brilliant hundred that he put up for the "1932 Tourists" against the "Rest of India" at the Willingdon Pavilion in Delhi in 1933 and an arrogant knock in

partnership with Leary Constantine, the West Indies star, against Mahomed Nissar then playing for the University Occasionals, an excellent knock of 176 for Vizianagram XI against Patiala in the Jubilee tournament of 1935 in Delhi, several delightful innings for Vizianagram XI in India and Ceylon in 1930 and a number of other characteristic innings in different parts of India including Hyderabad were the other batting successes in Nayudu's long cricketing career.

Nayudu also played a few fine innings for H. E. Lord Willingdon's XI and the teams raised by the many provincial Governors.

The Nayudu-Constantine partnership against Nissar (regarded by many well-known English critics as the fastest bowler in the World in the first seven overs) at the Ferozshah Kotla ground in Delhi, brings to mind an interesting story. Playing for the Cricket Club of India Nayudu and Constantine, two of the greatest cricketers of the world with distinguishing features all their own, were joined in an unforgettable partnership. Constantine who has nothing if not the right dose of self-confidence and perhaps a little more, somehow persuaded himself to believe that the exigencies of Nissar's dangerously fast bowling demanded his "shielding" Nayudu from the fast bowler's ravages. For quite a while Constantine was found taking Nissar to himself and in the process losing a run here and another there. The shrewd Nayudu was not slow in spotting what was working at the back of the West Indian's mind. Presently the crowd was to see a curious reluctance on the part of

Nayudu to run a run when there was clearly one in it, especially as Nayudu has been known to be one of the finest runners between the wickets even in his advancing years. An over had just been completed and Leary was seen walking upto C.K. apparently to say something which later transpired to be something like the following:—"What's wrong with you, C.K.?" had asked the jovial West Indian; "Cramps" had been the reply of the tall Indian. But when Nayudu faced Nissar there was no sign of any immobility on his part; on the contrary the very next ball was despatched by him for a magnificent, hooked four that nearly landed on the tree that characterises the square-leg boundary of the delightful Delhi cricket arena. The next one C.K. square-cut with brilliant wristwork that C.K. only would be capable of. Off the third ball Nayudu took a comfortable single and off the fourth Constantine ran one of the sharpest and shortest runs that has ever been stolen in big cricket. Thereafter the two great batsmen took their turn according to the run of play. There was no effort any more on the part of Constantine to "hide" Nayudu from Nissar!

His first visit to England had been in 1931 in his personal capacity when Nayudu assisted the Indian Gymkhana Club at Osterley. He had his fair share of success but had had the unusual experience of scoring five consecutive "blobs" in the beginning of the season!

Nayudu really entered the international arena in 1932 for the first time, during India's maiden official tour of England. He was thirtyseven at the time which is con-

sidered to be too advanced an age for the debut of any one in world cricket. But so dazzling was his form that Commander C. B. Fry, at the conclusion of the tour, was prompted to say, "Beyond doubt, one of the finest living cricketers. A splendid athlete. An artist who happens to look the part . . . A grand performer." Nayudu became the first Indian not playing in English county cricket to have his portrait in Wisden's "Five cricketers of the year" in which connection the conservative Wisden's observed: "Tall and well proportioned, Nayudu is eminently fitted by nature to be a good cricketer and his doings for the Indian team fully bore out the good account of him that had come to us by reason of his excellent performances in his own land. Above all else, he was a very strong player in front of the wicket, his driving both to the off and on being an outstanding feature of his batting. For a first class man he had one little peculiarity in that he conveys the impression of being rather late in making up his mind to drive. This, however, did not detract in any way from his skill or effectiveness. Possessed of supple and powerful wrists and a very good eye, he hit the ball tremendously hard, but unlike the modern Australian batsmen he lifted it a fair amount." And then again: "Nayudu was a fine batsman. Of a good height and reach, he used his powerful and pliant wrists to excellent purpose and in front of the wicket he hit very hard indeed. He drove on either side of the wicket with tremendous power, he cut well and was specially good in stepping back and forcing the ball to the on—with, it is true, a horizontal bat. Very pro-

perly, as his performances entitled him to do, he headed the batting figures scoring 1618 runs with an average over 40 in first class matches and having an aggregate of 1842 runs in all matches with a slightly lower average. In the course of the summer he played six innings of over a hundred enjoying the distinction of making 118 not out on the occasion of his first appearance at Lord's against the M.C.C."

The Wisden's no doubt threw out a significant hint when it spoke of Nayudu's forcing the ball to the on "with, it is true, a horizontal bat," and that exactly is the feature that has been commented upon ecstatically by men like Cardus and Fry and which has been often spoken of as "Oriental splendour." Nayudu probably got the most cordial press in England in 1932, the tall, slim, wiry and dark "foeman" sending even his adversaries to wonderment and delight. The praises heaped on Nayudu throughout England might be deemed out of proportion to his actual performances as England and the English press have seen such masters as Macartney, Bradman, Hammond, Woolley, Duleep, to say nothing of W.G. or Ranji or Hobbs and other giants who could delight the crowd and yet be as consistent as any of the safety-first, stodgy, "unbeatable" batsmen in first class cricket who calculate runs by the hour, and finally by the season, with a high enough average that would earn them the plaudits for sheer consistency, if not charm. That such was the case with Nayudu was because of the excellent mixture of science and the lack of it, the daring and the coolness that marked his batsmanship under any

conditions. The “hitting-against-the-break-mania” was severely criticised in many quarters at the outset of the tour and even before it, but the opposition gradually melted away when Nayudu showed them that the shot for which modern cricketing science has no room, may yet find some room in the armoury of a batsman of understanding who had specially trained himself in the peculiar art. This hitting against the break with certainty and precision was not just speculative but as certain as any of his other strokes and was achieved by sheer practice. Nayudu himself has observed that for years he practised the art of hitting anything and everything—fast, medium or slow, coming from any direction—to the on, of placing it wherever he liked to place it. As a result, that excellent sense of timing which characterises his batting has become second nature to the great batsman. There were many who at the outset thought they knew how to get Nayudu out with well tossed up leg spinners wide on the offside which Nayudu was bound to try to hit against the break on the on-side for a six, and be done for. But many were the occasions when this trick was tried over and over again but to the discomfiture of the bowlers who had “spotted” him, and they were hit clean out of the ground every time. One of such hits at Lord’s was described in an English paper as follows: “the ball was last seen sailing in an Easterly direction.” When Nayudu went in to bat at Canterbury even in 1936, J. W. W. Weigall, the well-known writer, referred to the 1933 West Indian tour when Frank Woolley had played one of his brilliant

innings also at Canterbury against the tourists and said: "Nayudu showed the crowd that Woolley was not the only one who could hit. It was cricket at its best."

Describing Nayudu's great effort of 41 against Yorkshire when India was dismally dismissed for a paltry 86 by Bowes, Smailes and Verity, J. M. Kilburn, the well-known critic observed: "Only when Nayudu was batting the wizardry of Bowes' swing disappear, only when Nayudu was batting did the Demons of Verity's spin vanish from our consciousness," and again: "It is the art of great batsmanship that the player appears at ease. Nayudu was almost always in comfort artistically if not physically today; he was quiet for long periods because the bowling offered few presents, but invariably he used the middle of the bat and so late did he make his strokes that rarely indeed was a change of mind forced upon him. Nayudu's 41 is mathematically nothing in comparison with many of his other achievements but it remains a great innings for all that. It did not bring the All-India total to respectability, but it gave character that was warmly and deservedly admired."

If all the praises showered on Nayudu by the English press were to be recorded, volumes could be filled. But nothing is perhaps more significant than the following descriptions of the great Indian batsman during his second official visit to England when he was admittedly much below his one-time glorious form; e.g., "Smiling C. K. Nayudu, who has played in England before, is one of the world's best batsmen. Perhaps it was inevitable that some Indian would be hailed as a

Bradman. Well, here is the man.”

Nearer home, S. P. Foenander of the Ceylon Observer wrote : “Nayudu is my beau idol of a cricketer. In his prime as I saw him, he was the Happy Warrior of cricket, a tall athletic figure, with lissom grace in all his movements and a command of all those glorious strokes that he exploited with such felicity and fluency. I rank Nayudu amongst the best batsmen I have seen in my travels abroad in England, Australia and India. As a stylist and fast scorer, not a mere slogger, he is comparable with artists like Charlie Macartney and Wally Hammond.” A.F.S. Talyarkhan’s (the Indian commentator) praises of Nayudu have been many, brilliant and frequent.

And, finally, let us see what Douglas Jardine, a critic hard to please, had to say about Nayudu. Said Jardine: “Nayudu at the wicket is comparable to a right-handed Woolley. Both remain masters of execution of every shot that the game knows.”

There is no doubt that English critics and spectators alike were considerably impressed by Nayudu’s fluency in stroke production which “bespoke education and ideas.” But it is entirely wrong to think as had been the case some time ago, that he was just one of those “smitters” or even that he could play only one type of cricket which was to go for the bowling and bowlers at all times irrespective of the requirements of the state of the game. In fact, he was great because like all great cricketers he could change his game to suit the occasion. Many have been the occasions when Nayudu has been as

stodgy and painstaking as the most "reputed" stonewaller of the age. Those who saw Nayudu bat for 150 minutes for thirtyseven runs only in the second test in Calcutta against England in 1933-34 cannot but have the greatest admiration for the magnificence in defensive batsmanship in which he excelled. India was then in the awkward position to have to play out time in order to avoid a defeat—and, perhaps, an innings defeat. Nayudu rose to great heights in this the other side of artistic and fruitful batting that has been rightly described as one of the finest innings of his career although he was not hitting sixes all the time as he had done against Arthur Gilligan's men in Bombay in 1925-26. He hit only two fours and—invariably perhaps—a six also which was his only other chief scoring shot.

It may appear to be rather surprising after all that has been said about Nayudu's aggressiveness that he was one of the finest back-players that the game has seen anywhere. Possessed of great height he nevertheless stepped back gracefully and stylishly even as he could dance down the wicket with correct footwork to get to the pitch of the ball and drive magnificently. His batsmanship has been characterised by "wristiness" and as the Wisden's observed he always appeared to be a fraction of a second late for making his strokes. He was a superb driver in front of the wickets but he could cut or hook with the same felicity. He made an art of what is known as the pull-drive both with and against the break. It could not be that Nayudu was not aware of the orthodox principles of batting but when he chose

to resort to the unorthodox, illogical or “unscientific,” it was because of his ability to do so with precision. What might be suicidal in the case of the average international might not necessarily be so where the really great were concerned.

Nayudu is invariably off the mark from the very first ball sent down to him. Often he has started his innings with a six and on other occasions he has played copy-book cricket and presented a straight, perpendicular blade to the ball for overs and even hours together. His greatest asset was in his ability to adjust his game according to the needs of the hour. It never followed the beaten track because it could find out its own with certainty and precision.

It is no wonder that Nayudu should have enjoyed, early in his career, the unique distinction of having been invited to play for the immortal Ranji's team at Jamnagar. Ranji could spot a pearl when he saw one!

— TEN —
BOWLING WITH THE HEAD

Great as a batsman and a fieldsman, Nayudu truly loved the art of bowling. Very few remember that Nayudu in his early days was a bowler who could make the ball turn disconcertingly from the leg, a rare gift for a right-hander which he lost when he bruised an important finger rather badly—a finger that was required to come into play to effect that devilish turn. Later on Nayudu developed the off-spin which he mixed extremely cleverly with an out-swing and an occasional, tossed-up legbreak which had, however, a tendency of losing pace off the pitch. But his effectiveness lay in his ingenuity in mixing them up along with subtlety in the change of pace and of flight. In short, the brains behind the arm that was being propelled was always in evidence and the early “spotting” of a batsman’s weakness combined with the throwing up of the particular ball that would be needed, accounted for much of his bowling success in first class cricket. In England he, in the nature of things, was a better bowler than in India. There he could swing the ball for a considerable time to provide the element of surprise from his varied off-breaks. Many were the times particularly when the wicket was responsive to spin that he troubled the best of batsmen with the excellent mixture of his brains and fingers. In

India on matting wickets he was often superb as he showed so convincingly when the Australians, the M. C. C. or Tennyson's team visited this country. On the 1932 tour of England, Nayudu captured 65 wickets at 25 runs apiece and on the later tour in 1936 he was slightly less effective in bagging 51 wickets at an average of 31. Much of his success can be attributed to his bowling to the field which he always set for purposes of attack and his greatest virtue with the ball lay in his ability to make 'em play the whole time.

His bowling abilities were not unknown in India but on the 1932 English tour inspite of the fact that his batting reputation had overshadowed his other qualities, people started taking notice of "this extremely clever bowler," or "a bowler who, like Stanley Jackson, is always trying to do things", or "a magnificent strategist who knows where to pitch 'em and when". Against Lancashire on the 1936 tour Nayudu started with an off-side fielding arrangement but the first ball that he bowled was sufficient to make him change over to three short legs where he got more than half the side out. From the finest of English batsmen, his bowling demanded respect at all times, for a little slackness would be enough for C. K. to avail of the unguarded moment, so quick was his perception and so instant his application. Without doubt Nayudu excelled in the intellectual application of the art of bowling.

— ELEVEN —
A BORN LEADER

Nayudu's leadership on the field has brought forth magnificent tributes from the finest cricketers and critics both in England and India. Its greatest virtue was in its daring and from the very first moment to the last his was a policy of "attack first and attack always." It was inevitable that such a policy, even as any other policy, was bound to fail at times but it was an error on the right side.

Commenting on the 1932 tour the cautious Wisden's said: "Fortunately for the side they possessed in C. K. Nayudu—easily their best batsman—a man of high character and directness of purpose, who in the absence of the two above him, was able to take over the duties of captaincy with skill and no small measure of success. He led the team in the test match at Lord's and, although on the losing side, earned commendation for the manner in which he managed his bowling and placed his fielding."

In the 1932 test match, Nayudu, true to his traits, had the "audacity" of doing without a deep third man for Mahomed Nissar, the fast bowler, against such masters of stroke production as Hammond, Woolley and Co. What is more, he succeeded and rarely was a run given away in the direction of the third man which was indeed

a high tribute as much to Nayudu's leadership as to Mahomed Nissar's magnificent accuracy-cum-pace. He was a master strategist in setting his field which was not always conventional but which admirably met the needs of the situation. Nayudu, like all great captains, has a pronounced preference for the really fast or the really slow bowlers for attack except for those handful of medium fast-bowlers such as Maurice Tate, George Geary and Amar Singh who have risen to great heights by sheer merit and efficiency, possessing that extra something which the average first-class man lacks. Often he has got first-class English county sides or even test sides out for totals under 200 which must be deemed excellent performances. He had no doubt such great bowlers as Nissar and Amar Singh under him but we have seen them toil under other captains and be reduced to mediocrity in the process. The courage that has characterised his handling of the bowling and his arrangement of the fielding has also been in evidence in the batting orders that he has given out and rarely, if ever, did he miss a chance of forcing the pace and turning an apparently drawn game into a spectacular win. Even Douglas Jardine, that shrewdest of shrewd cricket captains, has appreciated Nayudu's generalship unambiguously. Without doubt Nayudu has been a great captain.

There is the other side to the picture, however, and Nayudu has often been accused of not being able to draw the best out of his men off the field and to mould them into a harmonious whole. This is admittedly true but only upto a point, as the responsibility for the failure

must be sought in many other quarters. Personal and communal jealousies have often marred cricket in India and, in 1939, Nayudu bluntly told the world: "The last seven years' cricket history can be summed up in one word, 'Captaincy'. The Captain of an All-India team can be selected only on merit. Of a dummy who leads a good team and a real leader who captains an average one, the latter will always have better chances of success" and then, "Princes and pressmen, sportsmen and statesmen—all have played a big part in the muddle of Indian captaincy and, frankly speaking, I must say that they have not always played cricket". Nayudu concluded by saying: "What with one thing or the other there has always been something wrong in the state of Denmark".

Nayudu, it is well known, led India in the maiden test at Lord's in 1932 when the Maharaja of Porbandar and Prince Ghanasyamsinhji of Limbdi, the two above him, graciously stood down so that India could field her best eleven in international cricket. The 1936 tests were preceded by a controversy of great magnitude even in England when there were suggestions from among the players that the official captain should stand down in favour of Nayudu. It is rather embarrassing to note that it required English cricket critics to throw out the obvious hint for our benefit, as B. J. Evans of the "Star" did, and he was by no means the only Englishman to say so. Said Evans: "India needs to be represented by her best possible team. This would involve the captain standing down. I doubt whether he will do that, though he has a precedent. Maharajah of Porbandar, skipper

of the last touring side, did so.

“At the Oval I noticed that whenever the attack was in a tangle, the Maharajkumar consulted C. K. Nayudu before changing his bowling. So why not let Nayudu lead?”.

All this is not to say that Nayudu had never blundered either on the field or off it. But the allegations of his taking sides or backing up his so-called “favourites” have often been highly exaggerated, if not manufactured in toto by designing brains. After all who were his so-called favourites if not Mushtaq Ali, C. S. Nayudu, Naoomal Jeeoomal and Navle all of whom have stood by Indian cricket so magnificently? All said and done, it must be a bad day for any country when men like C. K. Nayudu, with all their faults, cannot be given unstinted and whole-hearted support which alone can enable a leader to lead properly. And of such a day we have had far too many in Indian cricket.

—TWELVE—
AS A CRICKET WRITER

Many references have been made in this book to Nayudu's writings on cricket and, in this chapter, a few extracts from his cricket criticisms are reproduced. The following is an interview given by Nayudu to the "Hindu".

"Commenting on the Indian batsmen's failure in the match against Lord Tennyson's team on the Brabourne Stadium (Bombay, 1937-38), Nayudu said:

'The Indian batsmen failed for two reasons. Firstly, for the lack of knowledge of playing against the swing bowling of Gover and Wellard who bowled magnificently in both innings; they were bowling excellent inswingers and exploited the Indian batsmen's defects fully. Secondly, I found our batsmen very often nibbling at balls which ought to have been severely left alone, with the result that there were six catches behind the wicket and three in the slips during India's first innings'.

"It will be recalled by those who followed the match that Gibb had taken six catches to bring about a complete landslide in the Indian side and Major Nayudu pays him a glowing tribute. 'I think,' he says, 'that Gibb is one of the finest wicket keepers I have ever seen. He is solid and ever alert.' Wellard, Gover and

Gibb are, according to him, the great trio whose combination is devastatingly brilliant.

"Hindlekar has his due share of praise. Nayudu's opinion of him is, 'Hindlekar, is a very fine wicket-keeper and is improving every day. Yet, I cannot say for certain who is better in his day—Navle or Hindlekar. It is curious that all the great wicket-keepers that India has produced are not more than 5ft. 2in. in height'.

"S. Banerjee, Bengal's product, now traded on by Jamnagar, who gave a brilliant account of himself, impressed Major Nayudu very much and of him and other bowlers he says :

'Banerjee was the best bowler for India in the first innings. If I were on his side I would have suggested his taking a fine short-leg instead of third slip, or do away with one mid-off. Amar Singh, our great bowler, had a day out, and Amarnath bowled some excellent stuff.

'The one that got Yardley would have bowled any other batsmen nine times out of ten. I feel that young Mankad should have been used more and a little earlier. It should be remembered that slow bowlers are not hit for runs very often by fast scoring batsmen. Nisar, with his experience of two European tours, was a little disappointing. He spared himself probably, in trundling his fast stuff or was he keeping something up his sleeves? Perhaps, yes.'

"Mushtaq Ali fell to a leg glance which, though risky, is one of his finest strokes. Mushtaq has lost his wicket many times now due to attempting this stroke

rather recklessly and Nayudu's comment on this failing of the young batsman is rather cryptic.

'This youngster, Mushtaq Ali,' he says, 'must go back to school to learn how not to glance when there is a field there, though it is probably one of his prettiest shots. He has been distinctly unlucky this time with this shot. How often batsmen are out unfortunately in this fashion'!

"Mankad who played such a glorious innings and collected 88 runs could not have missed Nayudu's watchful eyes and he is most expansive in talking of Mankad.

'I like Mankad's sound defence, strokes on the offside and pushes to the leg. I wish this youngster the best of luck in future. His 88 was a very well played innings and he thoroughly deserved it. I was sorry to see him miss just one ball at a stage when he was so close to the coveted honour of scoring a century on his first appearance in a "Test" match.

"Banerjee's batting in the second innings was such a brilliant performance that it made Major Nayudu proud. But wait. It is better one should read it in his own words.

'Banerjee, his successor, I am proud to say, played one of the finest inings of his life and helped his side to put up a decent score. His own brilliant contribution of 36, out of the most valuable 68 runs put up for the ninth wicket was very valuable.

"Edrich who had all along been showing consistent and brilliant form with the bat is considered by Nayudu

to be a coming England batsman and he is of opinion that we would hear more about him in the near future.

Edrich contributed 86 and gave a very polished display of correct batsmanship. I am certain that we will hear more of him in the future. He is one of England's coming cricketers.

"In summing up, Major Nayudu makes a deliberate shot. One hopes it would hit the bull's eye.

'One important lesson that India should learn from this defeat is that she must find out the right material to build up India's Test side. We have been distinctly unlucky in not securing a formidable eleven. There is a wealth of material in this country. The question is how they can be found out and who will discover them. To select a Test team the career of young cricketers should be watched very carefully.'"

Now, let us take up one of Nayudu's written articles—also in the "Hindu." Summing up the 1939 Pentangular which the Hindus, led by Nayudu, won, he wrote as follows :

"Looking back to this fortnight's cricket played in Bombay in connection with the Pentangular Tournament, I have great pleasure in recording that the game is taken more keenly and more enthusiastically than before both by the players and the public. A Test match atmosphere prevailed throughout these contests.

"It is yet a puzzle to me whether I should say that the standard of game displayed during this present series of big matches under review surpassed the standard used to be witnessed a decade ago, particularly regarding

batting technique. The pleasant sound, which one used to hear when the willow came into contact with that scarlet circular symbol, to make it fly to all cardinal points of space for sixes and fours, was less in evidence this year. India can ill afford to neglect this side of batting, since her oriental genius is noted for its venture and the greater repertoire of shots than are mentioned in cricket text-books. That is the glory of the game.

"Indians can never regard themselves as cricketers if they are not brilliant, whether it is club cricket or big cricket or Test cricket. Our climate, temperament, physique and our very mould all tend towards making us the finest exponents of the game. I am rather disappointed that the present tournament did not reveal to us any latent genius among the newcomers though they are keen as mustard. This may be perhaps due to over-coaching or due to no coaching at all. Victory or defeat, cricket must be played for cricket's sake.

"The fielding during this tournament was found to be of average standard. Conspicuous among the young players in this department were Rangnekar and Jagdale, who were smart. The wicket-keeping was deplorable during the present series. I have not counted numerically how many appeals were made during every match. I should think that at least a couple of centuries of appeals must have been made. I hope young students of wicket-keeping will not copy this bad example, but two newcomers in this branch, Engineer of the Parsi team and Bhandarkar of the Hindu XI, were two exceptions, who did excellent work behind the wicket.

Both of them possess that cool, calm and quiet temperament which go to make great wicket-keepers. Engineer was unlucky at times. Bhandarkar's six victims speak volumes of his quality and standard. These two need careful watching. I emphasise the word "watching." Bhandarkar also hit up 60 runs as an opening batsman, exploiting all known shots of the game. India has a reserve of capable wicket-keepers.

"Tarapore, a new name in big cricket, bowled very steadily. He has in him the makings of a very useful bowler.

"Batting is the department in which we are supposed to excel. We have, of course, some batsmen who can be ranked among the best in the world. The three centuries scored during this tournament by Merchant, Mankad and C. S. Nayudu respectively were such fine efforts that one would love to see them not only repeated in big cricket, but emulated by aspiring batsmen. A unique feature, which I noticed among the batsmen, was their adaptability to the circumstances, which is a welcome factor in batsmanship.

"In the first round, the Europeans, who years ago used to launch a formidable side, were not able to offer any resistance to the Hindus, who won the match. The fight was very tame. The Europeans will have to strengthen their side a good lot in future. The Muslims too had an easy match against The Rest, which should have been fought out more evenly had The Rest found a better equipped Captain than their present leader. There is enough material among The Rest, which, if

properly handled, should develop into a strong team.

"The Muslims, whose team had more bowlers than batsmen, paid the penalty in no uncertain manner as was evidenced by the final. With the exception of Mushtaq Ali, Abbas Khan and Wazir Ali, they did not have any one who could bat confidently. They have got to overhaul this department.

"The Parsis will have to wake up and improve their cricket if they are to come up to the tradition and glory built up by their old stalwarts. It is happy to note that they have now set to work in right earnest. I shall be immensely pleased to see their efforts yielding fruit at an early date.

"Coming to the Hindu side, I should say that their all-round strength stood them in good stead. Outstanding amongst them were Vijay Merchant, Vinoo Mankad, whose brilliant batting was a feature, Banerjee and C. S. Nayudu. They all put up fine all-round performances.

"Last, but not least, is the umpiring. There have been a few doubtful decisions in this series of Pentangular, but they were all given in good faith. The Board of Control has a big task to perform. It will have to pay serious attention to umpiring. It is hard luck with our umpires that they lack sufficient match practice to give of their best. Our future Test umpires should have sufficient training from now. I hope and wish that the Board of Control spares no efforts to produce first-rate umpires."

According to Nayudu himself "the value of correct

description and constructive criticism of cricket and cricketers is considerable.” From that very essential viewpoint, Nayudu, by his writings, has helped much in educating cricketers and the cricket public of India.

— TWELVE —
“NOT OUT FIFTY”

C. K. Nayudu is a great believer in the promotion of school cricket in which he sees, as everyone must, the backbone of Indian cricket. Recently, he told Dr. P. Subbarayan, the President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, that he was all in favour of sending out an Indian school cricket team abroad for international contents. This may appear to be a case of imagination let loose but not to those who know that even Ceylon school cricket teams have been sent out to Australia and vice versa during the last fifteen years or so. Nayudu's views on coaching are slightly unconventional because he believes in developing the Indian's natural traits which eminently suit them for bright and aggressive cricket and not for barn-door cricket which unimaginative coaches impose on young pupils.

Nayudu is however uncompromisingly opposed to anything but sporting turf or matting wickets which give the bowlers some chance, for all cricket in India, and regards the batsman's paradises that abound in India at the moment over a wide area as the grave of Indian cricket ambitions. He has been often heard to remark that if he were appointed the judge he would give the verdict to a 50 against first-class bowlers on a difficult wicket rather than to a 200 against the same



*C. K. Nayudu, at Bombay in 1944 on the occasion of the
"Nayudu Golden Jubilee Celebrations"*



Lt.-Col C. K. Nayudu as he looks in his military uniform.

bowlers on easy wickets. That is nothing very unusual for a great cricketer like Nayudu to say but what is really important is that he himself has acted up to his professions which may be seen from the glorious products of his personal coaching in the shape of the elegant Mushtaq Ali or the hard-hitting C. S. Nayudu, who are never afraid to hit the ball which Nayudu so religiously advocates. Vijay Hazare who has made cricket history in India in the matter of tall scoring along with Vijay Merchant, was one of Nayudu's 'favourites' while still in Central India. Without wasting words, one look at the Holkar State team with Jagdale, Bhandarker, Bhaya, Sarwate, Gackwad, Nimbalkar, to mention only a few, will convince anybody that from number I to number II, the batsmen of the State are taught to hit the ball whenever possible, which is Nayudu's philosophy of cricket.

If Nayudu has been accused of indulging in "favouritism" he can very well take solace in the fact that for international cricket he has backed such men as Mushtaq Ali, C. S. Nayudu and Vijay Hazare who were later to turn out into three of the finest cricketers that India has ever produced.

Nayudu has almost always backed communal cricket as being healthy cricket and when the great upheaval came a few years ago demanding a ban on communal cricket in India, Nayudu, enraged, blurted out that there was a "lot of politics but very little of cricket in the past seven years", and that "Indian cricket would be ruined if the Bombay Quadrangular or Pentangular tour-

nament had to be scrapped as a result of the pressure brought upon it by politicians and their kind". Nayudu added in support of the Pentangular: "My twenty-five years' experience of the Bombay Pentangular has convinced me that the competition does not embitter communal feelings", and concluded that "cricket should be left to the care of cricketers". But recently Nayudu has not been so very pronounced nor emphatic in his stand for communal cricket and although a public statement from him on the subject has been due nothing has come to this day except the fact that the Holkar State cricketers have decided "voluntarily" to stay out of communal cricket.

It is inevitable that a long career like that of Nayudu however distinguished should be marred by occasional "incidents". During the 1932 tour of England when Nayudu was appointed captain, he, in spite of what the Wisden's and many famous English critics had to say on his excellent leadership, was a bitter target for criticism in his own camp. In 1933-34, although the elected captain of India, Nayudu did not receive one hundred per cent co-operation from all quarters as might have been expected. By 1935, when the unofficial Australian team including Jack Ryder and Charles Macartney came out to India, Nayudu's position as a result of continuous propaganda, became almost intolerable and under the stress and strain he, too, definitely made a mistake when he refused to play under Wazir Ali at Lahore "owing to a split finger". For the 1936 tour of England Nayudu was twice a candidate for captaincy but was

defeated in each instance by the Nawab of Pataudi and thereafter, on Pataudi's resignation, by the Maharajkumar of Vizianagram.

For quite some time it was not known whether he would make the trip at all but he finally did it. The Beaumont Enquiry Committee held in India, on the conclusion of the tour, to go into the happenings on the tour with particular reference to the expulsion of Amarnath from England on grounds of indiscipline gave, among its many findings, the one that Nayudu had not given his skipper the full co-operation of which he was capable. The Beaumont decisions, as made amply clear by the committee itself, had to be taken in Nayudu's absence, Nayudu then being away in America on State duty.

When, therefore, Lord Tennyson's team visited this country in 1937-38 an amazing incident occurred in Indian cricket, second only, in point of sensation, to the Amarnath incident. A cricketer of world class, the hero of many a past battle for the cause of India, Nayudu was "selected" for the first unofficial test in Bombay and then dropped from the team, after he had gone all the way to Bombay for the match. All round there was a burning sense of resentment at this unwarranted slight meted out to India's greatest cricketer which was considered to be nothing short of a scandal. Public meetings were held in Bombay to protest against the unseemly behaviour of the Board and the following inside story as recorded at the time in one of the leading Indian journals may be interesting reading and is reproduced for all it is

worth. It ran: "It is understood that the Indian selectors on their own initiative invited C. K. Nayudu which was not very much liked in certain high quarters who had come to develop a strong sense of prejudice against Nayudu. Another interpretation, however, is that at the time of sending out the invitation it was hoped that Nayudu, as in 1936, would not accept the invitation because Vijay Merchant had already been appointed captain of India, in which case it would be easy to discredit him. Nayudu, however, wired back on December 8 intimating his acceptance. This is said to have come as a great surprise to some people and another wire was sent out on the following day to the effect that the selectors would expect him in Bombay early as they wanted to scrutinise his form inasmuch as he had not played in good cricket after the 1936 English tour. Evidently a big hint was dropped thereby that his inclusion would be doubtful.

"Nayudu received this telegram just prior to his departure but he came down to Bombay on Friday morning and after reaching the Taj Mahal Hotel telephoned the Board Secretary of his arrival and enquired why he, in the original letter, had not informed Nayudu that a trial would be necessary but had simply stated that he had been 'selected'.

"Merchant, one of the selectors, asked Nayudu to come down to the Brabourne Stadium at 10-30 a.m. on Friday for net practice and as he was about to get ready to leave for the Stadium a message from the Board Secretary was handed over to Nayudu asking him to see a

certain Prince instead. During this interview the details of the 1936 tour were discussed and that same evening the selectors dropped him from the team but without any intimation whatsoever to Nayudu who was to learn of his exclusion from the morning papers the next day when the match was to start. The Board Secretary was unable to explain his original letter in which he had mentioned that Nayudu had been definitely selected to play."

Many inferences are possible from a close reading of the above account of the inside story of Nayudu's exclusion but there seems hardly any need for them now. Suffice it to say that India's greatest cricketer was humiliated—justifiably or otherwise—with ostentation which smacked of a spirit of vindictiveness and a desire to ridicule Nayudu publicly.

As has already been made absolutely clear Nayudu might have made mistakes in his career but such treatment to one who had devoted a life-time to the cause of Indian cricket and had helped to put it on the map, was, to say the least, unseemly, but Indian cricket has not exactly been free of such happenings.

It is to be hoped that we have seen the end of such "incidents" and Nayudu, rightly forgetting the past, is now a member of the Board of Control for Cricket in India in which position India will expect him to give of his best even as he did with bat or ball in hand in the "middle". A great cricketer, a fine gentleman, that is Cottari Kankaiya Nayudu to whom Indian cricketers now on the scene and those that are to follow will look

for inspiration and guidance. If Nayudu was humiliated in 1937, the country as a whole made ample amends for the "sin" when his Golden Jubilee was celebrated all over India in 1944-45. Wherever he went, he was received with open arms and was paid the highest respects and compliments on and off the field. His greatness as a cricketer was recalled and the gratitude of the country expressed.

Nayudu's Golden Jubilee, as I have said, was performed with eclat at the various Indian centres. At Calcutta, the Mohun Bagan Club organised the celebrations and those at Bombay under the auspices of the Cricket Club of India brought India's greatest cricketer a purse of Rs. 18,000, being the nett proceeds of the Jubilee gate takings, as an humble token of Bombay's appreciation of Nayudu's invaluable services to Indian cricket. The P. J. Y. Hindu Gymkhana presented their former captain with a miniature gold bat. From all over India requests poured in for cricket matches to be staged in Nayudu's honour, but in the limited time at his disposal, he had to decline many of these invitations. Prof. D. B. Deodhar is perhaps the only other Indian cricketer whose Golden Jubilee had been celebrated but never on such a wide scale as in the case of Nayudu. Unique honour was thus paid to a unique cricketer.

Nayudu in thanking his thousands of friends, admirers and well-wishers and all those who had concerned themselves in organising the Jubilee celebrations, issued a historic statement to the press all over India in which,

inter alia, he said :

"As I look back upon my cricket career of over thirty years now, I am happy to think that it has been one of contentment without accidents or incidents.

"I do not quite remember how I took to cricket but the Nayudus seemed to play it always. The first big match I played was in Bombay in 1916, when I played for the Hindus in the Quadrangular against the Europeans including Tarrant, Sims, Goldie and J. G. Gray. My first scoring shot in the Quadrangular was a six.

"I should, perhaps, avoid making comparisons but I definitely feel that the conditions of play to-day are far better. As to the standard of the game, the general standard, I must say, has definitely improved but the stalwarts of the past like Baloo and Warden, Kanga and Mistry, Vithal and Deodhar, Shivram and Ganpat, Vajifdar and Kalapesi and Yusoof Beg of Poona were great players indeed. Baloo and Warden, in my opinion, were the two greatest left-hand bowlers in India I ever saw. Baloo's deceptive flight and ability to vary the pace was magnificent and he could perhaps be ranked with the greatest left-arm spinners of the world.

"I never had an opportunity of watching Seschachari, that famous wicket-keeper, but from accounts I have had of him from knowledgeable, old cricketers, he must have, doubtless, been a great wicket-keeper. Among the fast bowlers Ramji, like Nissar, was a great bowler.

"Compared to the present day cricket, that of the age to which I refer was definitely superior in one department and that was fielding. We had some very

gallant fieldsmen indeed who enjoyed fielding for the sake of fielding.

“As regards cricket crowds, these have increased to-day with larger accommodation and greater facilities give to them. But the crowds of the past followed the game with almost a religious fervour and a gusto all their own. A section of the crowd to-day may be more fashionable but the old crowd enjoyed the game as much as the new.

“Publicity of cricket to-day is definitely wider and more voluminous than in the past. The newspaper comments are generally more knowledgeable all over India.”

Nayudu then added his praises for the “superb” running commentary and cricket writings of A. F. S. Talyarkhan, the famous commentator, and for the criticism of Berry Sarbadhikary of Calcutta which, he said, were the finest things he had heard or read in India in the last thirty years. Thereafter, Nayudu continued:

“I have purposefully refrained from commenting on the many fine cricketers—some of whom are really great—in India to-day. We have everything which takes one to the top of the cricket world, but we must look after the splendid material we have with due care and attention.

“Systematic coaching and scope for playing more first-class cricket must be two of the many items on our plan to improve our cricket.

“But above all, discipline must be the watchword and there must be a national drive by all concerned to

introduce cricket in our schools and to catch 'em young. Therein will lie our strength in the Tests of the morrow and for all times !

“To the younger generation of cricketers I salute. On you rests the prestige of the Indian cricket of the future. Love the game, be loyal to it, and be loyal to yourselves. India, then, cannot but reach the summit of the cricket world ! ”

In concluding this little book, I would like to say even as Prof. D. B. Deodhar, another of India's great veteran cricketers, said: “We rejoice at your fifty not out but we look forward to an unbeaten hundred.” Long live Cottari Kankaiya Nayudu!

— FOURTEEN —

HIS PERFORMANCES

Every attempt has been made in this little book to record the details of the performances of a great cricketer but on the face of it, the attempt cannot be 100% successful. Firstly, C. K. Nayudu has had so very eventful a career that it would have required a very enterprising statistician to keep a record of all his achievements. Secondly, Nayudu himself has not maintained a diary. Thirdly, the newspaper accounts of matches until about twenty years ago were meagre.

Besides what follows it is known according to Nayudu's own statement referred to in Polishwalla's book that upto 1928 he had scored 65 centuries. Thereafter Nayudu has hit up many more centuries, easily exceeding the 100 mark. Nayudu scored a century in Bombay against a team which included C.V. Grimmett, was credited with 256, perhaps his highest score ever, against Vijaynagar in Madras in 1920. Nayudu was the first man to have scored a century, playing for the 1932 tourists against the "Rest of India" in a match which had marked the opening of the Ferozeshah Kotla ground with the Willingdon Pavilion at New Delhi. Nayudu in partnership with L. S. Constantine also scored a century in the maiden match that the Cricket Club of India played at Delhi in 1934 against the

University Occasionals which had included Mahomed Nissar. In the Jubilee tournament at Delhi of 1935 Nayudu playing for Vizianagram XI against Patiala XI scored 176. There were many other three-figure innings to his credit all over India. Nayudu must have had many fine scores to his credit in the series of Indian-European matches in Madras, or the C. P. Quadrangular.

C.K. Nayudu scored 91 for Indians against Europeans in 1928 when he hit five 6's and six 4's; in the 2nd innings he hit a 6 and eight 4's in making 62 out of 93.

There was or is hardly any patron of cricket in India for whom Nayudu has not figured. He was a permanent fixture for the Late Lord Willingdon's teams and those raised by many provincial governors. Nayudu assisted the teams got up by the rulers of Alwar, Patiala, Holkar, Cooch Behar, and the Nawab of Moinud-dowlah and the Maharajkumar of Vizianagram. With the last-named he toured India and Ceylon in 1930; he had also visited the island with a Bombay team earlier. Nayudu assisted the Indian Gymkhana Club of London regularly in 1930. He played for one team or the other in the All-India Tournament run by the Roshanara Club in Delhi and in similar tournaments elsewhere. On all these appearances Nayudu must have scored thousands of runs and taken hundreds of wickets which it will be our effort to unearth and record in our future publications. Nayudu has been a member of hundreds of clubs all over India and his cricket wardrobe presents a rich variety of club colours in India and abroad.

AGAINST M.C.C. IN INDIA 1925-26.

Against the M. C. C. captained by A. E. R. Gilligan which visited India in the cold weather of 1925-26, C. K. Nayudu got his first opportunity of figuring in cricket of the international standard and demonstrated that he was quite up to it and more. Playing for the Hindus at Bombay, Nayudu hit up 153 in hurricane fashion and his score included 11 fours and 13 sixes. Nayudu appeared seven times against the M. C. C. (in their card of 34 matches) on this tour. In 11 innings he aggregated 348 runs with an average of 31.63 and captured 6 wickets for 348 runs with an average of 58.00

For Rajputana and Central India at Ajmere: 15 and 0; 0 for 98.

„ Hindus at Bombay: 153; 1 for 57, 0 for 3.

„ Hindu-Mohammedan XI at Bombay: 27 and 23; 1 for 12.

„ All-India at Bombay: 18; 2 for 42, 0 for 11.

„ All-India at Calcutta: 24 and 7; 0 for 31, 1 for 24.

„ Indian XI at Madras: 5; 1 for 23.

„ All Madras at Madras: 59 and 22; 0 for 25, 0 for 19.

FOR ALL-INDIA IN ENGLAND IN 1932.

On the first official Indian tour of England, C. K. Nayudu not only had the distinction of leading India in

the only Test at Lord's but did so with credit as a captain. Nayudu's personal success with bat and ball was admirable. On his first appearance at Lord's he scored a century against the M. C. C. following it up with hundreds against Lancashire, Middlesex, Warwickshire and Somerset and missing it by 1 run against Kent. Nayudu also hit up a century against Indian Gymkhana. In first class matches he aggregated 1618 runs with 168 as his highest and an average of just over 40 and in all matches 1842 runs with a slightly lower average. Nayudu captured 65 first class wickets at 25 runs apiece and 79 in all at a slightly lower cost. His batting was characterised by delightful aggression and he hit 36 sixes during the season. In bowling he used his head and in fielding he was more than agile. The English critics paid him rare tributes for his stylish efficiency in all the departments of the game. In appreciation of his merit, the Wisden's of 1933 included C. K. Nayudu in the "five cricketers of the years"—a rare honour. Following are the figures:

- Against Mr. T. Gilbert Scott's XI at Pelsham: 3 and 2.
 „ Sussex at Hove: 25 not out; 67.
 „ H. M. Martineau's XI at Holypost: 23 not out.
 „ Glamorgan at Cardiff: 23 and 8.
 „ Oxford University at Oxford: 85 and 19 not out; 0 for 22 and 2 for 37.
 „ M.C.C. at Lord's: 118 not out; 4 for 31.
 „ Hampshire at Southampton: 18 and 0; 2 for 73.
 „ Essex at Leyton: 82; 2 for 26; 0 for 19.

- „ Norfolk at Norwich: 21 and 19; 0 for 28.
- „ Northamptonshire: 80; 2 for 25.
- „ Cambridge University at Cambridge: 36; 1 for 23, 0 for 15.
- „ Lancashire at Liverpool: 125; 0 for 56.
- „ Worcestershire at Worcester: 17 and 61; 0 for 27.
- „ India vs. England (1st Test) at Lord's: 40 and 10; 2 for 40, 0 for 21.
- „ Oxfordshire at Oxford: Did not play.
- „ Notts at Nottingham: 19 and 0; 1 for 66, 5 for 95.
- „ Staffordshire at Stoke-on-Kent: 3 not out, 3; 1 for 44, 2 for 31.
- „ Lancashire at Manchester: 2 and 1; 2 for 97.
- „ Yorkshire at Harrogate: 1 and 2; 1 for 35, 0 for 13.
- „ Middlesex at Lord's: 101 and 0 not out; 0 for 39, 5 for 53.
- „ Scotland: 5 and 0; 2 for 24, 4 for 23.
- „ Northumberland at Newcastle-on-Tyne: 11 and 34; 3 for 36, 0 for 17.
- „ Glamorgan at Swansea: 67 and 2; 3 for 7, 2 for 32.
- „ Warwickshire at Birmingham: 11 and 162; 2 for 64.
- „ Gloucestershire at Bristol: 26 and 2; 1 for 50, 1 for 46.
- „ Somerset at Weston-Super-Mare: 19 and 130

- not out; 2 for 52 and 4 for 39.
- „ Surrey: 18 and 11; 1 for 67, 1 for 21.
- „ Derbyshire at Ilkeston: 31 and 10; 3 for 59, 3 for 31.
- „ Leicestershire at Leicester: 16 and 5; 5 for 21, 1 for 49.
- „ Kent at Kent: 99 and 4; 0 for 59, 0 for 24.
- „ Sir Julien Cahn's XI at West Bridgford: Did not play.
- „ Indian Gymkhana: 104 not out; 5 for 81.
- „ An England XI at Folkestone: 8 and 20; 1 for 77.
- „ Mr. H. D. G. Leveson Gower's XI at Scarborough: 37; 0 for 60.

SUMMARY OF FIGURES.

Batting Averages.

	Number.	Innings.	Runs.	Highest Innings.	Times Not Out.	Average.
First Class						
Matches	26	45	1,618	162	5	40.45
All Matches	34	56	1,842	162	7	37.59

Bowling Averages.

	Innings.	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
First Class						
Matches	41	677.4	164	1,660	65	25.33
All Matches	49	8,222	210	1,948	79	24.65

Three-Figure Innings.

162	against	Warwickshire at Birmingham (6 sixes, 13 fours).
130	n. o. „	Somerset at Weston-Super-Mare (3 sixes, 16 fours).
125	„	Lancashire at Liverpool.
118	n. o. „	M.C.C. at Lord's (1 six, 12 fours).
104	n. o. „	Indian Gymkhana at Osterley (3 sixes, 12 fours).
101	„	Middlesex at Lord's.

AGAINST M.C.C. IN INDIA 1933-34.

Following the 1932 Indian tour, C. K. Nayudu was appointed Captain of India for all three tests against England in India in the cold weather of 1933-34. Against the M.C.C. captained by D. R. Jardine, Nayudu figured in 10 matches including the three tests and in 16 innings aggregated 577 including 116 for Governor of Punjab's XI and 107 for C.P. and Berar besides 67 in the first test at Bombay and 79 for Moin-Ud-Dowlah XI at Secunderabad, and an average of about 36. In bowling he captured 23 wickets for 438 runs being on occasions very difficult to play on matting. In the three tests Nayudu's batting average worked out at 26.66 per innings. Not altogether at his best, Nayudu once again demonstrated his all-round ability and his shrewdness as a captain when he sat on the splice for two hours and a half for 38 runs in the second innings of the second test at Calcutta to deprive England of a certain victory.

- For H. E. The Governor of Punjab's XI at Lahore: 116;
 0 for 78.
- „ H. E. The Viceroy's XI at Delhi: 30 and 0;
 0 for 52.
- „ India vs. England (1st Test) at Madras: 28 and 67;
 0 for 10.
- „ An India XI at Calcutta: 25; 1 for 44, 0 for 39.
- „ India vs. England (2nd Test) at Calcutta: 5 and 38;
 3 for 40.
- „ Vizianagram XI at Benares: 6 and 17; 0 for 2,
 4 for 24.
- „ Central India at Indore: 7; 6 for 34.
- „ C.P. & Berar at Nagpur: 107 and 28; 5 for 87,
 2 for 44.
- „ Moin-Ud-Dowlah XI at Secunderabad: 2 and 79;
 1 for 24, 1 for 20.
- „ India vs. England (3rd Test) at Madras: 22 and 2;
 0 for 32, 0 for 38.

AGAINST H.H. THE MAHARAJA OF PATIALA'S
 TEAM OF AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS
 IN INDIA 1935-36.

Against "Australians" in India in 1935-36 Captained by Jack Ryder and including C. G. Macartney and R. K. Oxenham, C. K. Nayudu played in two out of the four unofficial tests but did not play in those at Lahore and Madras, the former due to an injury. Playing for Central India he had his best performance both with bat and ball, bowling with great effect on the matting wicket.

- For H.H. Patiala's XI at Bombay: 36 and 27; 0 for 12;
 (unofficial test).
 „ Central India at Indore: 50 and 16; 5 for 48;
 2 for 79.
 „ C. K. Nayudu's XI at Calcutta: 5 and 5; 0 for 10;
 (unofficial test).

Nayudu did not play in unofficial tests at Lahore and Madras.

Nayudu's averages worked out as follows. Batting: 23.16, Bowling: 21.28.

FOR ALL INDIA IN ENGLAND IN 1936.

Never attaining the brilliant heights that he had done on the 1932 tour, C. K. Nayudu, now 41, nevertheless gave glimpses of his old form on occasions as he did with his masterly 41 out of 86 against Yorkshire at Bradford. Nayudu hit up 1,102 runs with an average of 26.23 in all matches with 83 against Oxford as his highest. He had a test match average of 23.33 with 81 in the third test at Kennington Oval as his highest. In bowling he captured 51 wickets at 31.78 runs apiece but captaining India against Lancashire at Liverpool he ran through the Lancs second innings with 6 for 47 to bring India one of her few victories. Nayudu had started the tour rather well with the bat having piled up 375 runs in the first 7 innings with an average of over 50 but thereafter he somehow faded away. Even then,

although nowhere near his great self, Nayudu had considerable success, judging from the ordinary point of view.

- Against Worcestershire at Worcester: 46 and 8;
0 for 17.
- „ Oxford University at Oxford: 83 and 21; 2
for 37; 3 for 96.
- „ Somerset at Taunton: 73 and 68; 1 for 84.
- „ Northamptonshire at Northampton: 76; 0
for 24.
- „ M.C.C. at Lord's: 24 and 0; 1 for 70.
- „ Leicestershire at Leicester: 9 and 35; 1 for 25.
- „ Middlesex at Lord's: 7 and 3; 0 for 26.
- „ Essex at Essex: 2 and 1; 0 for 16; 1 for 18.
- „ Cambridge University: Did not play.
- „ Yorkshire at Bradford: 41 and 30; 0 for 38.
- „ Durham at Sunderland: Did not play.
- „ Nottinghamshire at Nottingham: 35; 1 for 17.
- „ Minor Counties at Lord's: 36; 1 for 32.
- „ Surrey at Kennington: 37 and 37; 4 for 121;
1 for 15.
- „ England (First Test) at Lord's: 1 and 3; 1 for
17; 0 for 22.
- „ Lancashire at Manchester: 39; 2 for 85.
- „ Ireland at Dublin: 17; 3 for 31; 7 for 44.
- „ Lancashire at Liverpool: 0 and; 1 for 47; 6
for 47.
- „ Derbyshire at Derby: 60 and 30; 1 for 14;
0 for 30.

- „ England (Second Test) at Manchester: 16 and 34; 2 for 84.
- „ Glamorgan at Swansea: 13 and 0; 4 for 53.
- „ Warwickshire at Birmingham: 35 and 1; 1 for 24; 0 for 47.
- „ Gloucestershire at Cheltenham: 17 and 40; 2 for 86; 0 for 18.
- „ England (Third Test) at Kennington Oval: 5 and 81; 1 for 82.
- „ Hampshire at Bournemouth: Did not play.
- „ Kent at Canterbury: 2 and 23; 2 for 124.
- „ Sussex at Hove: Did not play.
- „ England XI at Folkestone: 13; 2 for 92.
- „ Sir J. Cahn's XI at Nottingham: Did not play.
- „ Mr. H. D. G. Leveson Gower's XI at Scarborough: Did not play.
- „ Indian Gymkhana at Osterley Park: Did not play.

AGAINST LORD TENNYSON'S TEAM IN INDIA 1937-38.

The visiting team played 24 matches but C. K. Nayudu played only once against them. Nayudu was invited for the first test at Bombay but was then dropped which resulted in a great controversy.

For Central India at Indore, he scored 15 and 10 runs and took 3 for 70; 3 for 33.

SUMMARY OF FIGURES.

Averages in the Three Tests Only

	Matches.	Innings.	Not Out.	Runs.	Highest.	Average.
Batting	3	6	0	140	81	23.33
	Innings.	Over.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
Bowling	4	0	66	205	4	51.25

Average In 3-day Matches During the Tour.

	Innings.	Not Out.	Runs.	Highest.	Average.
Batting	42	0	1,102	83	26.23
	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
Bowling	499.5	66	1,621	51	31.78

Averages in Test Matches

C. K. Nayudu played all the Test matches against England 1932, 1933-34 and 1936.

Batting :

Test Matches.	Innings.	Not Out.	Total.	Average
7	14	0	350	25.00

Bowling in Test Matches :

Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
135	24	372	10	37.20

(It should be noted that all other matches referred to as Tests are not Tests according to world usage.)

PERFORMANCES IN THE QUADRANGULAR, 1916-1936.

Batting :

1917	Against Parsis in Final: 80 not out.
1919	„ Parsis in First Match: 56.
1920	„ Mohamedans: 62; 51.
	„ Parsis (Final): 121.
1922	„ Mohamedans: 82.
1923	„ Europeans (Final): 76 and 74.
1924	„ Europeans (First Match): 135.
	„ Mohamedans (Final): 52.
1929	„ Mohamedans (1st Match): 155.
	„ Parsis (Final): 75.
1934	„ Mohamedans (Final): 97.
1935	„ Parsis: 129.
	„ Mohamedans (Final): 101 and 53.
1936	„ Did not play.

Partnerships

1920	C. K. Nayudu & J. S. Navle for Hindus against Parsis at Bombay: 165 for 4th wicket.
1923	C. K. Nayudu and P. Vithal for Hindus vs. Presidency at Bombay: 138 for 4th wicket.
1923	C. K. Nayudu and K. G. Pardeshi for Hindus against Presidency at Bombay: 137 for 1st wicket.
1924	C. K. Nayudu and D. B. Deodhar for Hindus against Presidency at Bombay: 197 for 5th wicket.

HIS PERFORMANCES

1927 C. K. Nayudu and R. S. Godambe for Hindus against M.C.C. at Bombay: 109 for 7th wicket.

Averages in the Quadiangular (1916-1936)

Batting :

Innings.	Not out.	Highest Score.	Total.	Average.
44	44	155	1934	48.35

Bowling :

Overs.	Maiden.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
355.2	78	897	29	30.93

PERFORMANCES IN THE PENTANGULAR

1937-1944.

1937 Hindus did not participate.
1938 (Captain) Against Rest (in first Match): 16 runs.
Against Muslims in Final: 25 and 66.

Averages

Batting :

Innings.	Not Out.	Highest Score.	Total.	Average.
8	1	66	222	31.71

Bowling :

Over.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.	Average.
78.3	17	220	9	24.44

CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP OF INDIA FOR THE RANJI TROPHY

In the Cricket Championship of India for the Ranji trophy—the national championship—C. K. Nayudu has figured for Central India and, since its dissolution for Holkar—always as the captain.

Nayudu made his first appearance for Central India in the year of its inception in 1934-35 but without any spectacular success. In the 1935-36 season against Bengal on the Eden Gardens, he bowled with his head to capture several wickets. In 1936-37, Nayudu was absent from the team, having been away to America on the completion of the 1936 tour of England. But returning to lead Central India once again, in 1937-38, he put up a well-played 74 against Bengal on the Eden Gardens.

That was his last appearance for Central India but he participated in the Championship again, after a break of two seasons, for Holkar State in 1941-42. Captaining Holkar, Nayudu scored 35 and 54 against the U. P. besides taking 3 wickets.

In 1942-43, Nayudu after scoring only 7 in the first innings, hit up a magnificent 81 Not Out in the second to beat the U. P. spectacularly. He had also taken 5 wickets, his first innings averages reading 28.5—5—68—4. In the East Zone final that year against Bengal at Indore, Nayudu registered his first hundred in the Championship besides capturing 3 wickets for 41 runs in 18 overs of which 7 were maidens. In the semi-

final against Hyderabad at Hyderabad, he failed with the bat, being dismissed for 0 and 3 but his bowling analyses read: 36.4—6—103—2 and 21—7—39—3. Nayudu's averages in the 1942-43 season were as follows:

Batting: 5—1—102—193—48.25

Bowling: 133.4—31—310—13—23.84

In 1943-44, Nayudu hit up his second century in the Championship with 102 against the U. P. at Indore but his second innings effort realised only 16 runs. With the ball he was devastating, bagging 8 wickets for 70 runs in two innings, the analyses reading separately as follows:

1st Innings : 19.4—7—33—4

2nd Innings : 21 —7—37—4

Holkar got beaten disastrously by Bengal in the East Zone final that year by 9 wickets. Nayudu scored 7 and 18 and his bowling analysis was: 27—2—117—2.

Nayudu's complete averages for the season read as follows:

Batting : 4—0—102—143—35.75

Bowling : 67.4—16—187—10—18.70

In the 1944-45 season, Holkar, under the fostering care of Nayudu for the last few years, gave the best performance in the championship so far, going up to the final where they were beaten by Bombay after a memorable game characterised by double centuries from the blade of V. M. Merchant of Bombay and Denis Compton, the English Test cricketer who assisted

Holkar, a century in each innings by Mushtaq Ali, and Russi Modi's missing the same distinction by only 2 runs in one of the innings.

Towards Holkar's success Nayudu's contribution was not inconsiderable. He scored 41 against Bihar at Jamshedpur, following it up with 141 against Bengal at Indore in the East Zone final. In the semi-final against Madras at Madras, Nayudu hit up 52. In the final against Bombay at Bombay, Nayudu scored only 2 and 4 but in the second innings he captured 3 wickets for 104 runs on a batsman's paradise.

THE END

